JOHN BULL

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The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Under the auspices of the League will be held in the

FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER,

. ON .

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 1909.

Chair to be taken at 8.0 p.m. by the President,

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, Esq., M.P.

Doors Open at 7 p.m.

Prior to the commencement of the proceedings Selections of Music will be given by the Lancashire Military Band. (Conductor—Mr. B. Paton.)

A limited number of reserved seats can be obtained from the Organising Secretary (MR. J. W. WARD), at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

"JOHN BULL" CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

Our NEXT ISSUE, dated December 11th (and published Thursday, December 9th), will be our

CHRISTMAS NUMBER,

and will contain, in addition to all the usual features, SPECIAL CHRISTMAS STORIES AND SKETCHES.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

To-day (Thursday) the Commons will give their reply to the Lords—and soon the fun will begin. We say "fun" advisedly, for, shout as we may about a great Constitutional crisis, it is Plum Pudding versus both the Peers and the People. The whole thing has been so muddled that Santa Claus has just stepped in to put an end to it. Had the Government forced the pace, as it could have done, a month ago, it would now have been back in power—or, at any rate, in office. As it is, who shall say what the result will be?

But we will hazard a guess. The Government will lose just enough seats to place itself at the absolute mercy of the Irish party. The real Prime Minister will be Mr. John Redmond. In these circumstances, neither Mr. Asquith nor Mr. Balfour will be keen on taking office, and in some kind of compromise we may see the beginning of a new political era—the birth of that Business Government. The only terms upon which the Irish would work with the Liberals would be the promise of a Home Rule Bill, and Mr. Asquith would thereby be placed in the predicament of giving the Lords a splendid chance of rehabilitating themselves by throwing out the measure; whilst he would also have to submit to the indignity of compromising on the Budget. Mr. Balfour, on the other hand, would not undertake the responsibility of forming a Ministry with the knowledge that he could, and probably would, be placed in a minority on the debate on the Address.

Mr. Asquith has one chance—a belated one, no doubt, but the only one. Let him at once reorganise his Cabinet and go to the country with a new set of men. Let him shed some of the lawyers and put a few business men in their places. Let him drop "Temperance" and other paternal legislation, and announce a Business Programme for the next Parliament—we shall be happy to draft one for him—and he *may* then come back with a working majority.

Weighing all the evidences, however, we are disposed to think that the approaching Election will mark the doom of our present Party system. In the meantime, the John Bull League must increase its activity, pegging away towards its goal—a Business Government for a Business People.

The League, by the way, grows apace. Between now and the end of the year we shall have visited most of the principal centres of population, and we shall then proceed to formally appoint District Secretaries and other officers, to whom we shall look to keep us informed of all local questions in which the intervention of the League may be of public service, and who will be in regular touch with the local members by means of monthly meetings and social gatherings. In the meantime, we shall be glad if our correspondents—whose name is legion—will accept this, "the only intimation," for the present.

CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER, PRICE 2d. NEXT WEEK.

An illustration of the enormous economies possible by improved transit in rural districts is afforded by Mr. H. A. Worth, a Lincolnshire farmer, who has just spent £10,000 in building a branch line to bring his produce to market. A thousand pounds a mile looks a lot to pay for the convenience; but with a pair of rails to help it one horse can do as much as twenty without them. Work it out on a basis of twenty-five years. When we get that Business Government it may apply the moral.

Reports reach us from Manchester that the anonymous slanderer is at work with the memory of the late Mr. Storrs, the victim of the "Mansion murder." All sorts of wicked stories are being set afloat by some cowardly skunks. If any of these degenerates knows anything worth repeating, there is the police-station hard by and a reward of £600. Meanwhile, decent men should ram the dirty lies down the throats of those who whisper them. A man may not even be murdered nowadays without the vultures of scandal using his death as a text for their disgusting speculations. It is very revolting, and the family have our sincere sympathy.

We do not smoke Marcella cigars ourselves, but we can imagine that people who do have a preference for getting what they pay for. Consequently, we are glad to see that the Hull magistrates imposed a stiff fine on a local tobacconist for selling "stumers," which were made up to resemble the real article, and packed in orthodox boxes. Evidently the fraud was systematic; and the refusal of the tobacconist to say where he got the goods from aggravated his offence. We trust that the source of supply will be traced. It is very unfair that firms which supply a standard article and advertise it, at great expense, should be subjected to this spurious competition. It is necessary that dealers should know that if they sell something for what it is not the plea that it is "just as good" will not serve.

The latest medical scare affects our dogs. It seems that it is unhealthy—"dangerous, and may prove fatal"—to pick up a long-haired dog after he has been rolling in street débris. But surely no one but a certain sort of woman does this; and the sooner she dies out, the better.

Ferdinand of Bulgaria has evidently forgiven Peter Karageorgevitch, for at last he has consented to visit the palace at Belgrade. One of the secrets of the misunderstanding was that Ferdinand is a man of mystery. Whenever he leaves Sofia, the population knows of his departure only by noticing that the flag no longer flies over his palace. All his visitors are received with mystery, and the most elaborate precautions are taken against the Paul Prys of the Press. A few years ago he talked to Peter in the train, and Peter immediately published full details of the interview. The next time Ferdinand saw him, he treated him with great contempt, making sarcastic remarks about the decorations worn by the Servian usurper. There is now, evidently, something in the air, for Ferdinand never departs from his prejudices except with a specific object in view. The Young Turks may look out for trouble in the spring, "when the trees bud," the usual time for disturbance in south-east Europe.

The most cruel thing which has ever been done by a critic of the House of Lords was the publication in the *Daily Mirror* of the portraits of a number of Peeresses interested in the Budget.

Double Christmas Number. Price 2d., Next Week.

We are an amusing people. The very latest idea is that ladies with nothing better to do should combine in forming "an afternoon tea club for lonely curates in London." No doubt the scheme will go through; it is just the sort of scheme that is sure to go through. The urgency of the need is unmistakable. Curates of twenty-five years and upwards, we are told, have to spend their evenings in dull lodgings. They are "fond of cake," adds the lady promoter of this club for lonely curates, somewhat inconsequently. But working-men who might be lonely in the evenings form clubs of their own without the patronage of silly women. It is open to curates to do the same. If they like cake, it is open to them to either buy or make it. It should be an agreeable occupation for their spare time. If they cannot afford the materials, let them form a trade union and get better wages. So long as the curate is willing to remain the tame cat of cake-bestowing dowagers, he will continue a butt for gibes.

Our attention has been called to the conditions under which the circularising in connection with Dr. Barnardo's Homes is carried out. We understand that the order for envelope addressing is given to the various London agencies at the price of 3s. per 1,000 which means that it is impossible for a person to earn more than 3d. an hour, while many do not earn even 2d. Are the authorities of the Home aware of this?

Any journalist or traveller with an adventurous spirit would find plenty of fun if he took a trip to Croatia in the immediate future. The dissatisfaction there is growing apace, and the various Balkan States which hate Austria are doing their utmost to fan the flames. But an enquirer would need to use unusual circumspection lest the field of investigation should be restricted to the inside of Agram Gaol.

What is this we hear about Chinese pork being now served up by certain wholesale firms as bacon? The carcases, we are told, are being salted in London and sold to provision merchants in what the trade term a "Green" state, and the merchants then smoke them and put them on the market as bacon—which is sold as "English cured," at about ten shillings a hundredweight under the Dutch or Swedish article. We understand that upwards of 500 bales—equal to 2,000 sides—were sold in London last week. In addition to this, the pork is being palmed off in the Manchester market as both English and Wiltshire cured. The worst of it is that the stuff is in no way branded, and consequently there is no way of distinguishing it—*before* purchasing—from the genuine article. Now, then, Mr. Burns.

The Rev. James Morgan, doing assistant duty in St. Peter's Church, at Staines, is anxious it should be known that he has "nothing to do with party politics, in the pulpit or out of it." Unfortunately our rev. brother has to be judged by his preach and not by his protest. That present Ministers have done some things they ought not to have done, and have left undone some things which they ought to have done is admitted, for all politicians are conscious of each other's imperfections. But when our rev. brother states in the course of a sermon he reports himself in the parish magazine as having preached at St. Peter's, that the Lord has this year deliberately intervened to ruin the crops as a judgment upon His people for their wickedness in electing the present Government, we have no alternative but to diagnose his distressing case as one of political hydrophobia. Our rev. brother should be muzzled at once.

Double Christmas Number. Price 2d., Next Week.

STORY BY MARGARET BAILLIE-SAUNDERS—Next Week.

As long ago as 1824, there were not wanting in England men who foresaw the Pro-Puritan tyranny growing up and protested against it. One of these quoted by Mr. Ralph Nevill in his recent book "The Merry Past" is as applicable to-day as it was 85 years ago. "It requires no vote of the House of Commons," he said, "to tell us that the power of cant has increased, is still increasing, and ought to be put down. The modern Pharisee, not content with his Bible, tract, and missionary society, is never happy unless he interferes with the pleasures and amusements of others; if he does make an exception, it is in favour of the rich, not the poor:—

"Raise not your scythes, suppressors of our vice—
Reforming Saints, too delicately nice!
By whose decree, our sinful souls to save,
No Sunday tankards foam, no barbers shave,
And beer undrawn, and beard unmown, display
Your holy reverence for the Sabbath day.

"Such is their zeal nowadays that the Londoner in his Sunday walk dares no longer munch an apple or crack a nut. The whole stock of a wretched old woman was lately seized on a Sunday by some of these Pharisees, when they knew it was not during Divine service, and were depriving the poor woman of putting a bit of bread in her own and her children's mouth." As Mr. Price Collier, in his "England and the English," said recently, the Pro-Puritans' hell should be a place where "everyone is obliged to mind his own business." How unhappy some of our Christian legislators would be in such an inferno!

The review of the changes in Sunday observance that have come over London during the past quarter of a century provided by Mr. Henry Mills (who has been associated for twenty-one years with the Sunday League), is full of encouragement for those who wish to see the week-end utilised in the wisest and happiest ways. When so much has been accomplished in spite of old-fashioned bigotry, it is reasonable to hope that much more may be done with the general leavening of popular intelligence and the growth of a more liberal sentiment. Twenty years ago military bands were not allowed to provide Sunday music for the people who pay for the Army; now four Guards' bands are so engaged. As a result of its steady propaganda, the Sunday League now entertains 30,000 Londoners every Sunday; and whereas at first the music, if not poor, was common, high-class symphonies and concertos are now included in the programmes. Moreover, 25,000 persons weekly get a needed change of scene and air by means of the League's excursions. It is a good piece of work.

There is no doubt that negotiations are proceeding with a view to the Labour party and the Liberals joining forces at the General Election. Mr. Henderson's speech at Bishop Auckland was an obvious "feeler." But we do not think anything will come of it. All the present Labour men wish to keep their seats, and no "accommodation" can be arrived at unless individual members and candidates are prepared to give way here and there—which they are not.

According to a Mr. William Jones, who had something to say at the Monmouthshire English Baptist Association, the other day, on the spiritual condition of the people, the Baptists ought to rise and condemn "the present craze for amusement." It seems that in these days, despite the multitude of parsons, young people go to skating rinks, rifle ranges, and even to football matches. Cannot Mr. Jones do something to get them into chapel? If not, there is something the matter with either him, or with chapel.

DOUBLE CHRISTMAS NUMBER, PRICE 2D. NEXT WEEK.

Though it is true that the House of Lords have rejected the Budget, we should not advise anybody to be too quick in asking for his money back. The other day, an Admiral of the Fleet—whether Lord Charles Beresford or not we are unable to state—rushed in hot haste to the office of the Paymaster and demanded return of his income-tax, and they do say that his application was carefully noted, numbered, docketted, and pigeon-holed for future reference if necessary. The gallant gentleman is an energetic optimist. We can assure him, however, that what Mr. Lloyd George has got, that will he keep, and that whatever bills he has undertaken to meet, we shall have to pay.

A word or two concerning the Littlehampton magistrates, Mr. W. Rawson-Shaw, J.P., Mr. H. C. Barrett, J.P., and Mr. A. Heasman, J.P. An inmate of the workhouse was brought up before them on a charge of refusing to perform his allotted task. The man was one of six who made complaints about the workhouse food. Mr. Heasman, J.P., as Chairman of the Board of Guardians, presided at the meeting which judged the complaints, and the man now properly objected to Mr. Heasman sitting in judgment on him as a magistrate. The reply of Mr. Rawson-Shaw, J.P., one of Mr. Heasman's colleagues, was that Mr. Heasman was *not* adjudicating. If that were so, why was he on the bench, and why did not he retire immediately the objection was made? But he remained during the whole of the hearing, and though he "was not adjudicating," Messrs. Rawson Shaw and Barrett allowed him to cross-examine the defendant from the Bench. That surely was most extraordinary procedure even for a Court of county magistrates, where all sorts of extraordinary things are sometimes done; and when it is added that this workhouse inmate is ruptured, that he has only one eye, and that he professed to have done all the work he was physically able to do, the conduct of the magistrates in sentencing him to six weeks' imprisonment is little short of an iniquity.

After the Littlehampton magistrates, what is to be said about their worships of Otley in Yorkshire, where one is accustomed to look for humanity and common sense? Begging is a statutory offence. It is regarded not only as a social nuisance but as a trade for the vagabond and the idler, who does his best to exist at other people's expense in face of the edict that if he will not work, neither shall he eat. But there is not work for all of us who want wages for it; at least, if there is, it is difficult to find; and if a man cannot get work, and is starving, and yet desires to live, there is really not much harm done if he does go to the door of somebody who seems better off than himself and asks for a bit of bread. But the Otley magistrates think differently—probably because they have never eaten of the four winds and been unfilled therewith. At any rate, George Long, a French polisher, was seen by a policeman to beg, and then to go into an outhouse, where he was seen eating the bread, wherefore the magistrates sentenced him to a month with hard labour. If we had our way, when the French polisher came out, the magistrates should go in. As it is, wild rumours are current in Otley that the policeman is to be promoted sergeant, and that the magistrates are to be raised to the peerage.

Dr. Anton Langfeldt's work on the minds of animals is very interesting, though we do not remember ever hearing a horse say "yooaw" when angry, but we have heard men say something very like it. We agree, however, that very young puppies and small babies do really talk in identical terms. Moreover, many lovers of dogs must have noticed how most of them seem to understand infant prattle.

"Jim Crow" on Christmas Celebrations.—Next week.

The Lincolnshire County Court Judge seems to be extremely unaffectionate towards money-lenders. Recently one of that useful fraternity asked for judgment for a debt of £18, and his Honour complied by making an order for payment in instalments of one penny per month. At this rate payment will extend over 360 years.

During the past few weeks there have been several cases of postmen stealing letters—one of them extending over a long period. and covering some hundreds of letters. Now the business of the Post Office is an enormous and complicated one, and no doubt it is difficult to invent an effective check on dishonesty, especially if the thief be ingenious. Still, it seems desirable that the Department should make a serious effort in that direction. If our information be correct, auxiliary postmen are put on at times of stress with very little real inquiry into their characters. These men are sent out at all hours of the day and night to clear remote street boxes—which sometimes they do not clear within half-an-hour of the stipulated time, sometimes before that time, and occasionally, we fear, not at all, or not completely. Our postal workers, as a body, are of the finest material in a fine country, but it is necessary that everything should be done to protect their reputation, and the public can help materially by always crossing cheques and postal orders before sending them by post.

It looks as though the London County Council were trying their hardest to use the Children Act as a weapon of tyranny against parents. Consider what happened in Limehouse a few days ago. Between the time she left school for dinner and the time she had to return, a man sent his daughter, a girl thirteen years old, on an errand. He was a shopkeeper, and a customer coming in for bread of a kind which for the moment he could not supply, he sent the child to fetch the loaves while the customer waited. She was accosted by the Inspector of the Council, who followed her home, and threatened the father for illegally employing the child. This was a new experience for the shopkeeper. He wondered whether he was living in "a so-called free country" or whether he wasn't, and accordingly appeared before the magistrate at the Thames Police Court and told his story. There the inspector made the astounding explanation that, as the child had fetched bread to be sold, "this was employment by way of trade within the meaning of the Act." The magistrate did not retort upon the inspector that he was a fussy, meddlesome, and illegal ass, but he did snub him to the extent of declaring that a casual act was not "work," within the meaning of the law. When one cannot send one's children on an errand without the County Council's permission, it is about time to put up the shutters.

Reference to the magistrate at Thames Police Court recalls a case in which Mr. Dickinson was less fortunate in his judicial perceptions. The charge he had to consider was against a woman for cruelty to her three-year-old child. The mite was covered with bruises from head to foot, and its brother related how the defendant had tied it to the bedpost and thrashed it, made it lie on the floor in its nightdress, and then beaten it with a cane, and "hung her up with the dog chain on a nail in the door." In our view, nearly all magistrates are too lenient with people who are cruel to children. Apparently Mr. Dickinson is among the number, for all the punishment the defendant received was a month's hard labour. Our blood runs cold when we think of the sufferings of this little child. The magistrate has quite failed to realise his duty.

We are not sure which is the greater sinner in the matter of Party humbug—the Politician or the Press. Referring to the demonstration against the Lords on the evening of Thursday last week—when it had been anticipated that the division on the Budget would take place—the *Daily Express* quotes at length from a circular issued from the National Liberal Club calling upon "the outraged masses to come in their thousands," and then estimates the crowd at 200 strong, and mentions that, after being received with loud laughter, it dissipated itself into the various local public-houses. On the other hand, the *Morning Leader* speaks of "a crowd of about two or three thousand." The *Daily News*, however—the organ of Nonconformist veracity—heads its account in big type, "London and the Lords—Huge Crowds gather in Parliament Square," and estimates the number of "peaceful demonstrators" at 9,000, and, ignoring the National Liberal Club circular, speaks of it as "a spontaneous outburst." Our contemporary goes on to observe that "it is many years since popular indignation against the ruthless behaviour of the Hereditary Chamber has reached such a pitch"! Neither the *Morning Leader* nor the *Daily News*, however, comments on the significant fact that these earnest demonstrators—keen politicians following closely the course of current events—were apparently unaware of what the rest of the world knew—namely, that the division was postponed for some days.

It will be remembered that during the Guildhall proceedings in connection with the abortive prosecution of "Rex v. Bottomley and others," upon the presiding magistrate, Sir George Smallman, falling ill and a new magistrate taking his place, the prosecution intimated its intention to simply read the depositions of the witnesses—a course which was strongly, though unsuccessfully, resisted by the defendants. We now read that in the Witney blanket case, in somewhat similar circumstances—Alderman Vezey Strong being suddenly called upon to take the place of Alderman Pound—the same proposal has been made. The report, however, proceeds: "Mr. Horace Avory objected to this course being followed, as his personal experience was that as a rule the same attention was not paid to read evidence as to spoken evidence." We need scarcely remind our readers that Mr. Horace Avory was leading counsel for the prosecution in "Rex v. Bottomley," and that it was he who insisted, on behalf of the Crown and against a defendant in person, upon adopting a procedure which he now admits to be unjust and oppressive!

Double Christmas Number, Price 2d., Next Week.

A supremely idiotic person advertises in the *Times* inviting "some dissatisfied millionaire to present him with one million sterling in order that the fallacy of the burden of wealth may be disproved." If he receives the cash, he undertakes to keep a daily diary of his disbursements, and at the end of two years to submit it to a committee of business men for their opinion on the experiment. But why not let the committee of business men make the experiment themselves?

Is there no law of libel in France? Since Madame Steinheil's acquittal, the baser newspapers have conducted a campaign of foul insults against her, accompanied by the filthiest caricatures blatantly insinuating her guilt. Oh! these pioneers of civilisation!

A Belgrade newspaper says that Sir Edward Grey "promised England's aid to Servia whenever the latter required it in the economic field," and that "henceforth Servia may reckon on English capital" for the Adriatic Railway. We beg leave to ask the Foreign Secretary whether he expected this money to be voted in the Budget.

"The TRUE Story of Cinderella."—Next week.

We are unauthorised to state that on the rejection of the Budget by the House of Lords, all Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts, and Barons, who have withdrawn their guinea subscriptions to football clubs, cricket clubs and other more deserving charities, will carefully consider whether they shall resume the payment of the same.

Commonsense in government or administration always pays. Therefore we are not surprised to hear of the success of the Borstal system of reforming "criminals." The method consists in treating them as human beings, and as potentially useful citizens. They are given quite a lot of rope and are taught trades which should enable them on release to earn a respectable livelihood and make a new start. More than two-thirds of the Borstal youths have turned out well; have pulled themselves together after doing their bit, put their backs into steady jobs, and are going on finely. One day we shall no doubt make a further step in the right direction. Instead of waiting until lads brought up shiftlessly and allowed to drift into casual unskilled labour, and thence by way of unemployment into crime have "gone to the bad," we shall teach them trades as part of their secondary education. We want to see some of the years now devoted to the development of hooliganism spent partly in acquiring a knowledge of manual industry and partly in military training.

DOUBLE CHRISTMAS NUMBER, PRICE 2D., NEXT WEEK.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

He was a country parson, and the conversation turned upon the paucity of his congregation. "Why not tempt them with the promise of a pint of beer after the service?" suggested his cynical friend. "Do you think my parishioners would come to church for the sake of a pint of beer?" came the indignant reply. "Well," came the retort, "try 'em with a pot.'

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE KILLJOYS WHO CONDEMN SUNDAY GOLF.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For stating that "Professor Lowell, Arizona, reports early snow on MRS.*"*

THE CARDIFF EVENING EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "South Bucks Free Press":
"Every ONE *who thrives,*
Owes much to careful WIVES."
TOPLIS'S CHEAP STORES, HIGH WYCOMBE,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that Reuter's correspondent at Singapore telegraphed that "Many of the SURVIVORS WERE EATEN BY SHARKS,"

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a man "has been in the employ of the firm ALL HIS LIFETIME, *but so also have his* SON AND GRANDSON,"

THE COVENTRY CORRESPONDENT OF
THE DAILY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a recipe for iced sponge cake: "Put all into an enamelled pan and boil for eight MONTHS."

THE NORTH-EASTERN DAILY GAZETTE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Our Editor writes under date LONDON, *June 11th,"*

FAULDING'S MEDICAL AND HOME JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to the tobacco plant "which was just beginning to get on its LEGS,"

THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For declaring that "As long as God lives, no authority shall make my mouth a prison and my tongue a captive,"

PASTOR WISE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "with FIVE *exceptions King Edward has attained a greater age than any previous occupant of the English throne—the exceptions being Queen Elizabeth, George II., George III., and Queen Victoria."*

THE TIMES AND *THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE*
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a report of a football match: "On one occasion he saved a deceptive grounder on all fours, sprang to his FEET *like an* EEL, *and performed another piece of daring work."*

THE WISHAW HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing the following paragraph:—"To Lady Edith Trotter belongs the distinction of having captured the biggest salmon of the season, on the Sprouston water of the Tweed. It turned the scale at 48½ lb., and was landed LAMBETH POLICE-COURT ON FRIDAY FINED 10S., *and length and 27 in. in girth."*

THE EASTERN DAILY PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing the following advertisement:—"Trespassers on the Trenewydd Estate will be prosecuted. Any one giving information which will lead to the conviction of same will be well PROSECUTED."

THE FISHGUARD COUNTY ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "The stream FLOWING *in the direction of Tanque remains* STATIONARY."

THE DAILY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

A Christmas Story by Theodore Dahle.—Next week.

THE "ABODE OF LOVE."

"SISTER RUTH" TELLS THE TRUTH.

OUR CHARGES OF OUTRAGE, ROBBERY AND BLASPHEMY.

As promised in our last issue, we now present more fully our charges against Smyth-Pigott, the head of the Spaxton Agapemone. Further, we are also able to give the personal testimony of Miss Ruth Reece, known to the public as "Sister Ruth," whose narrative fully corroborates the details we have given from time to time of the general uncleanness of life in the "Abode."

We will deal with this "inside" evidence first:—

How "Sister Ruth" was Interviewed.

After ten years of intimate acquaintance with Pigott, eight of which have been passed with him as his chief "soul-bride" at Spaxton, it is obvious that Miss Reece is in a position to describe life there exactly as it is. She has done so, and a pretty story it is! But before entering upon her personal narrative, it will be as well to briefly relate how JOHN BULL was able to secure an interview with this lady; for it may be remarked in passing that this is the first occasion that "Sister Ruth" has given to the public any personal account of her career. As stated recently in these columns, Pigott a short time ago became weary of her fading charms, and deposed her from her position of chief of his "wives," elevating in her place a young girl, barely 17 years of age. Woman-like, the slight was very keenly felt. Pigott, although presumably well versed in female ways, did not quite foresee the effect of his action, for he overlooked the powerful influence exerted by jealousy at seeing a rival occupy the most coveted place in the Spaxton harem. Taking advantage of the "Master's" flight to Norway (consequent upon JOHN BULL'S merciless exposure of him), and smarting under these stings of the "green-eyed monster," "Sister Ruth" absconded from the "Abode" a few days ago. She at first took up her temporary residence at Cannington, a hamlet near Bridgwater, but after a few days removed to Nether Stowey, the romantic little village at the foot of the Quantock Hills, famed as being for a time the home of the poet Coleridge. In a tiny cottage in this latter place (occupied by a gamekeeper) she was found by the representative of JOHN BULL, and there, amid the humble surroundings of a typical Somerset dwelling, she related, sometimes with tears and sometimes with the scorn of outraged womanhood, the story of her connection with Pigott. An amazing recital, with an amazing *finale*—for at the conclusion she announced her intention of voluntarily returning to Spaxton. She was offered assistance to take her to relatives or sympathising friends, and urged to break for ever her association with her betrayer. But in vain. Sadly, but none the less resolutely, she reiterated her decision, saying: "I must go back to the 'Master.' I feel I cannot live without him—and yet I fear and detest him!" That same evening, as dusk was falling over the beautiful Quantock Hills, "Sister Ruth" returned to Pigott and the two illegitimate children she has borne him.

"Sister Ruth"—in Fiction and in Fact.

Perhaps no woman of recent years has been more the sport of the imaginative pen than the one under discussion. She has been glibly described (by those who never set eyes on her) as all that is alluring to the senses of men. Thus we have seen glowing descriptions of Pigott's first victim as "a gloriously beautiful creature," and a woman, "tall, and with a wealth of golden hair." Another journalist, not to be outdone, pictured "Sister Ruth" as "a lovely young girl of 25, with a sweet, innocent face, and large blue eyes." Stuff! Now for the reality, although it seems almost a pity to mar the handiwork of the reporters who have created for the public such a glorious creature from their own imagination. Taking careful note of Ruth Reece as she crouches over the fire in the Somerset cottage, with her face turned towards the light, the writer saw a fast-fading woman who confesses to close upon 40 years of life. Nor has that life, during the last 10 years, at all events, been conducive to the preservation of good looks. Sorrow, an uneasy conscience, and a loose rein to the passions have left their mark in the weary eyes, scored underneath by a network of tiny wrinkles, the drooping mouth that long ago lost its suggestion of innocence. The "wealth of golden hair" is seen to be a scanty crop of dull brown, arranged in a somewhat slovenly fashion, and tinged with grey. Just an ordinary woman, who seems to have grown old and weary before her time, and with a type of face that one may meet by the score any day. This is the unhappy "sister" upon whom Pigott first practised his wiles at Clapton, and afterwards took with him to Spaxton.

Ruth's Own Story.

"I was between 27 and 28 years of age when I first met the Master. It was in this way. I was the eldest of a large family, and as my parents were only working people, then living at Evesham, I had to earn my own living. For several years I was a companion to a lady of good family, whose home was at Highgate, North London, and with her I travelled a great deal abroad. In the early part of 1899 or 1900 (I am not quite sure) we were living permanently at Highgate, as my mistress's health was not such as to permit her to travel. As a matter of gossip, I heard that a very strange sect had opened a church at Clapton, which was not so very far from us. They called themselves 'The Children of the Resurrection' and their church 'The Ark of the Covenant.' My curiosity was much aroused, and I determined to go to one of their services. At the time I was professedly a Wesleyan, though not very devout. One Sunday evening I went to the 'Ark.' I shall never forget it. It was my first sight of the Master, although then I did not even know his name. I cannot remember what he preached about or that there was any peculiarity in the service, but I remember clearly that I was much impressed with the atmosphere of *peace* that seemed to fill the place and affect the worshippers. I went many times after this, and thus became familiar with the doctrines set forth by the Master—very strange at first, but gradually filling the mind with a distaste for worldly things. Prior to this I had been very anxious to get on in the world, and secretly had hoped to marry well and have a good social position. But now all that seemed changed. I felt I wanted to always be with those who worshipped at the 'Ark' and became one of the most regular attendants. I was acquainted with many who went there each Sunday, and made some very pleasant friendships. I little foresaw the end!

Spiritual Sophistry.

"Then one day I received an invitation to take tea at the Master's house. I was pleased, and quite excited at the prospect; for I felt a curiosity to see something of his domestic life. I went, and found a comfortable well-furnished house. Mrs. Pigott talked very kindly to me, but I saw nothing of the Master at tea-time. I was disappointed, and thought it strange, but later I was told that he took all meals alone. After tea we

"A Nice Young Man for a Party."—Next week.

went into the drawing-room, and presently the Master came in. He greeted me kindly, and then took no more notice of me. After a time his wife left the room, leaving us alone together. Directly she did so, I felt a strange sensation come over me—partly fear and partly a sense of *anticipation* that something was going to happen. He came and sat opposite to me. Then very softly—his voice is low, but beautifully clear—he said: 'Sister, look at me.' I felt I could not; I was afraid. He repeated the request and I forced myself to comply. His eyes seemed to burn into my inmost being; I could not withdraw them. I felt conscious that unless by a great effort I pulled myself together I should faint. Then he put out his hand and touched me. I shrank from it, and yet it was a delicious sense of repulsion. Oh, the devilish wiles of this man! He possesses the monstrous power of awakening the physical, and at the same time paralysing the moral sense. I felt perfectly assured, as a reasonable being who had seen something of the world, that he intended to wrong me, and yet I could not struggle against it. But when I had reached my home that night, although no actual wrong had taken place, I felt a perfect agony of loathing against him and vowed that I would never go near him or his church again. But the next day I received a note from him: 'Come to me at eight to-night.' The moment I read it I knew I should go, and yet I vowed I would not. But all those hours of that day I felt him drawing me to him, and in the evening, wrapped in guilty shame, I crept out of the house. At his house I saw Mrs. Pigott. These were her words: 'Do not fear me—all is right.' I was too astonished to answer her. Again I saw the Master alone. In his soft voice he began to talk of the joys of spiritual love and (as he put it) unfold the mystery of the Kingdom. He told me he was more than man. But I cannot dwell on it; it is too painful. That evening, in his own house and with his wife a few feet away in another room, he betrayed me. I fled home like a woman possessed, and yet I wanted him. Then I took the second step. I became an inmate of his house, and was with him when he made the announcement at Clapton that he was the 'Messiah.'

The Great Somerset Treck.

"When things became too uncomfortable at Clapton, we moved permanently to Spaxton, where Brother Prince had set up his 'Abode of Love' many years before. With those who came from London with us and the inmates already at the 'Abode,' we numbered about 90 persons, of whom 5 only were males. Whatever may have been said or written about me (and I have long ceased to care), I may say that never have I been deceived into believing that the one we call the Master was any more than a man of great capacity for deluding and enslaving women. Over me he exercises a power that is too horrible in its effects to be fully described. I am, as I have long been, his slave, subservient to his will—and what a will it is!—and yet I both loathe and desire him. Of course, my life at Spaxton has been, until recently, a specially favoured one, because I stand first (or did) among all his 'spiritual brides,' and my children are allowed to remain with me, and are made much of by the Master. But now another has been put in my place, a young lady who became an inmate a few months ago, and I am put on a level with the others.

"I know I shall go back to the Master. I cannot live without him, and that is the testimony of all those who are under his power. It may be hypnotism or personal magnetism, or whatever term is used to describe the power of the Master, but the effect is always the same: He awakens the sensual and kills the moral part of our natures. I do not believe that *one* of his victims really believes his spiritual claims, but yet we clutch at them as some sort of covering for our shame. Sexual irregularities are the beginning and the end of life at Spaxton. It is our religion. We are told that life only can come from the Master, and without him we can never find eternal rest and happiness. During the years I have been at the 'Abode' I have seen so many degrading sights (that is, to normal individuals) that at last one loses all sense of outraged modesty. I have learnt that human nature is *progressively* evil. At first the Master was content with me as his victim; then he preached and practised 'free love,' and immorality became general; and then, descending to darker depths, he has betrayed the innocent against their will, some of them of tender years. And hand in hand with this has gone robbery and deceit; for again and again females have come to Spaxton who on entering have given over every penny to the Master, deceived by his religious pretensions and hypnotised by his personality."

Is Not the Cup Full?

The above is a *resumé* of the wretched story of a wretched woman. But it sheds light upon one point. It shows that Pigott's victims are not so much deluded by his sophistry as enslaved by the species of hypnotic power that he possesses. Such cases, although rare, are not unknown, and Pigott is undoubtedly one of those characters whose misdirected powers of fascination render him a menace to society. By his own confession, and by the testimony of the unhappy "Sister Ruth," we know him to be a man who wallows in sexual uncleanness, and, unhappily, such loathsome creatures as he are not long content to glut their lust upon their equals in age. There appears to be all too much reason to believe that Pigott, in the fancied security of the jealously-guarded "Abode," has not even held sacred those of tender years, nor regarded the agonized entreaty of the victim obtained by the cruellest deception.

Two Norwegian Girls Outraged.

We have deliberately charged Pigott with the detestable crime of rape. In so doing we were not relying on the statements of the woman Reece—although she fully bears out all that we have said. There are at present living in retirement two young sisters who were lured into the "Abode" under the grossest misrepresentations. They have both explicitly stated that when first the idea of life in the Agapemone was presented to them (and it should be said that, as natives of Norway, they had heard nothing of the history of Pigott's harem) they imagined something of the character of a home of rest and meditation, and, being of religious temperaments, it appealed to them. Besides, they were mere children. Incredible as it may appear, in spite of agonised appeals and desperate resistance, both of these poor creatures were foully raped a few days after their entrance into the "Abode." What does Pigott say to this?

And how has he served those females of riper years? Under the cloak of the most sacred name in Christendom, he has gratified his lust, and had the impudence to assert, "I have done no wrong." We have a copy of a sermon preached by him in which he distinctly says, 'In here (the 'Abode') we are above all man-made laws."

Robbery.

It is scarcely necessary to speak of his swindling capacities. He has robbed his converts of thousands, by pretending to be the herald of a new dispensation wherein no cash is required. Some of his victims have not the price of a packet of hairpins upon them. What does Pigott say to this?

Blasphemy.

As to his blasphemy, it is of the most dreadful character. His booklet, "The Sacred Light," is an impudent attempt to prove his godhead, and would be amusing were the subject a less sacred one. Recently prosecutions have been undertaken by the police in cases of alleged blasphemy. Why do they not arraign Pigott?

For the moment we leave him in the hands of the Public Prosecutor—to whom all eyes are now turned.

'The Ghost who got the Sack."—Next week.

OPEN LETTERS. POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, M.P., Secretary for War, Whitehall.

MY DEAR HALDANE,—As the inventor of the Territorial forces, you will probably be interested in the hard case of Mrs. Charles Stone. The husband of this woman, I may tell you, was a Territorial gunner serving in the 2nd London Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. While in the service of his country at Bulford Camp in August, he was severely injured by the explosion of a paraffin drum. He was delirious and dying when his wife was summoned to camp to see him, and he passed away without recognising her. Now, what I want to impress upon you is this. Till the time the man died, he was earning good wages as a cableman in the L.C.C. electric works at Greenwich, supporting his wife and children in comfort. If he had suffered this fatal accident "in the ordinary course of his employment," there is no question that his widow would have had a substantial claim on his employers. But having left his work to make himself efficient for the service of his country, under the obligations and regulations of military service, and having been killed in camp in the course of his training, his widow is now informed by the Colonel of the Brigade that nothing can be done for her, and that he "thinks it is perfectly useless to approach the Government on the subject, as they have no funds for any such purpose, and the Brigade has already paid the expenses of the funeral."

Now, my dear Haldane, in a letter of this sort I can speak my mind freely, and *entre nous* I think this is a damned shame. It is disgraceful—it is monstrous. Here is a woman with two children, practically destitute, living with her aged father, who "has to keep the home going by gradually selling off his furniture," the widow of a man killed in the service to which he has been drawn by the instincts of patriotism, and yet she is practically told that all the country can do for her is—to bury her husband!

Is this really the last word that can be said on the matter? After all our flag-wagging and drum-banging and trumpet-blowing—after all our frantic appeals to strong young manhood to come to the defence of our common country, is it to go forth that there is no Government grant for the widows of Territorials, of the ranks, killed or injured on duty—that neither for the Widow Stone, nor for any other widow in similar case hereafter, is there to be a stiver—that, for all we care, she and they may starve—that we will not even find them a job charing for the War Office? What is your idea about it? What are you going to do? As surely as you do nothing, so surely will you find that the Territorial training camps will get no more husbands to kill; the wives will see to that. Mrs. Stone is now seeking some sort of employment by which she can support herself and her children. Have you any washing?

JOHN BULL.

To the Very Rev. Griffith Roberts, M.A., Dean of Bangor.

MY DEAR BOBS,—Take my word for it that you have provoked a great deal of indignation among all sorts and conditions of people in Bangor by your action in regard to the young Carnarvon lady engaged by Dr. Rogers, the cathedral organist, to sing at the first of his winter series of organ recitals. If you had vetoed her engagement on the ground that she couldn't sing, or that she had an alarming way of doing her hair, or shut out the view of half the sacred edifice with her hat, or that she didn't wear enough of her clothes, I could have understood it, but as a matter of fact, all you have to say against her is that she is a—Nonconformist. The humbug and intolerance of some of you clerics are a source of perpetual amazement to me, but as they are, apparently, a source of infinite satisfaction to yourselves, I suppose they will be standing dishes on your spiritual menu as long as I put up with a privileged, State-supported Church, and possibly for a long while afterwards. Yet I assure you, Dean, that this sort of thing alienates public sympathy from its ministers, and is driving people further and further away from their influence, indifferent alike to their prayers and their preaching. A great Message is never served by a bad messenger. JOHN BULL.

To Dr. Seymour Taylor, 16, Seymour Street, Portman Square, W.

DEAR DOC,—I have read your lecture on the interesting subject of the "Common Cold," and notice your wonderful pronouncement: "I know of no remedy with which it is possible to cut short or avert a cold." This, at any rate, is frank, but why trouble to deliver a lecture to make so obvious a pronouncement? If you cannot cure a cold, what can you cure? JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. A. Wellesley Batson, Squire of Ramsbury, Lundy.

DEAR BROTHER,—From the spectacle you made of yourself in Court when charged at Reading with travelling on the railway without a ticket, I gather that you are a ridiculous person, though it may be that you regard yourself as a humorist. "Now, my lords and gentlemen, are you ready?" was the way you greeted the magistrates. "I admit you are a silly ass," you remarked to a witness. "There's a psychological study for you," was your picture of the prosecuting solicitor; "he ought to go to the Zoological Gardens." Several times in Court you put on a rowing cap, and being ordered to take it off you drivelled about the order being *ultra vires*, and said you would issue a caveat or an interim injunction. You shot your final bolt at the prosecuting solicitor. "You are discharged," was your inane observation, "without a stain on your lemon sole." Put yourself in the care of your medical adviser, and be quick about it—before you get worse.

JOHN BULL.

To "Captain" A. Beckley, The Salvation Army, London.

DEAR LASSIE,—I note that you have volunteered for foreign service among the lepers. I have little sympathy with foreign missions, as you may know, and I do not approve of all the "Army" does. I cannot, however, but admire the splendid courage which causes you to offer yourself for this work of mercy. Father Damien is not the least of our heroes. And if, quite apart from any spiritual work you may do, you labour, as he did, on broad lines for the comfort of these sad sufferers, brightening their living death with the light of human sympathy, you will merit the praise of all mankind. Safety and prosperity attend your voyage and your efforts. JOHN BULL.

To Captain Rupert G. A. England, Australasia.

DEAR CAPTAIN,—I gather from the letter you wrote to Mr. J. J. Kinsey, the New Zealand representative of the *Nimrod* Expedition, that you consider yourself scurvily treated by Sir Ernest Shackleton in his account of the South Polar fiasco. I understand that you were in command of the *Nimrod* during the voyage from England to New Zealand, and from thence to the ice, where you landed the explorer and his party. It appears that Ernest has ignored mention of your services, and, further, that he has added injury to insult by stating that you resigned the command of the *Nimrod* for reasons of ill-health. If, as you claim, you were sound in mind and body at the time, and that your "resignation" was forced upon you, I think you have good reason for complaint. Seeing that the Government has presented the "Lieutenant" with a large sum of public money without going to the country on the question, I feel with you that the public have a right to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about the expedition and the treatment of those who took part in it. Let me have full particulars and I will see that honour is given where honour is due.

JOHN BULL.

To His Honour Judge Willis, County Court, Southwark.

DEAR JUDGE,—May I respectfully request you not to utilise the bench of your honourable Court as a platform from which to make inane observations on men and things? "Let me see what they read in Hackney," you remarked a few days ago. "The first volume is 'Philosophy and Religion'—a strange combination. 'Man in the Light of Evolution.' I know what evolution is, but I never knew it had a light." Didn't you, really? But why should you have taken all this trouble? What do they read in Hackney——

JOHN BULL.

J. S. Slater, Octogenarian, Islington.

Understand you have been much amused by people attending funeral another octogenarian, same name, under impression it was yours. A grave error. BULL.

Herbert Gladstone, Home Secretary, London.

Recommend you get King's sanction appointment Governor South Africa quick as poss., or one of Balfour's chaps may be after it. BULL.

The British Public.

Next week, my wonderful double Christmas number. Twopence. Worth a guinea. BULL.

"Jim Crow" interviews Walter Moore.—Next week.

What is a Clerk?

An article of far-reaching importance to all who are engaged in business. Useful alike to the Clerk, the Salesman, the Traveller, the Manager, or the Proprietor of any Business large or small.

If any man that reads this question should himself chance to be a clerk he would undoubtedly be indignant if we were to give as our definition of a clerk—"the man who failed." Yet such is the case if we examine facts with an impartial mind. Men who succeed make definite positions for themselves. They become managers, salesmen, travellers, experts of some kind or another. But the clerk remains just the clerk, because he has no qualification which enables him to do anything more than office work of a more or less mechanical order.

"Yes," we shall be told, "but there are many men who, although they are simply clerks, possess sufficient ability and sufficient brains to make them capable of commanding success in other directions."

Exactly so. There are many clerks who could be successful in other directions, but the fact remains that they are not. Why? Why do they remain in the ranks of

the clerkly failures?—

for the very over-crowding of the ranks of clerks and the average poorness of the pay proves that they are the mass of mediocrity and failure from which the clever and capable few have been sifted out.

It is not that the clerk has no ability, but it is that he has never learned to apply that ability. Anyone who takes the trouble to inquire into the source of success will at once receive a very convincing demonstration of the fact that to-day *it is knowledge that wins*. In other days, influence and the simple virtues of punctuality, steadiness and sobriety were sufficient to ensure a man regular and mechanical advance in his business, but now this is no longer the case. The only men that move up are the men that increase their knowledge.

There is no college, or institution, at which commercial knowledge or information of that sort that a man needs in order to better himself in business can be acquired, but recently there has been published a book which is of the utmost value and importance to any and every man engaged in any kind of business, trade or profession. It is a book of which Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons wrote: "We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is the work *par excellence* for every business man."

The book we refer to is

"The Business Encyclopædia,"

which is not an encyclopædia in the ordinary sense of the word, but an encyclopædia of a specialist kind. It is the first Encyclopædia of Business ever issued, and its immediate success, and great popularity, prove unquestionably that it is an encyclopædia which has been wanted for a very long time. It gives exhaustive expert information on every point of business detail; on professional and legal matters; on financial matters, and on all matters relating to the conduct and progress of business.

It is an easy matter for any man to say to himself, "Oh, no book can tell me more about my business than I know already." This is a big mistake, and a costly one. The business you are engaged in is not the only one of its kind, and the "Business Encyclopædia" has been written by experts, who have had life-long experience in every trade and profession. So that when you refer to the "Business Encyclopædia" you are referring to and making use of the experience of an expert.

A Few of the Contributors.

The new and revised edition of the "Business Encyclopædia" contains stimulative and practical articles on business building, business methods, and business success, written by men who have built up the firms they represent into the gigantic concerns they are to-day. Among the contributors are Mr. Richard Burbidge (Managing Director, Harrod's, Ltd.), Mr. S. J. Waring (Managing Director, Waring and Gillow, Ltd.), Mr. J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager to *The Times*), Mr. Laurence R. Dicksee (M.Com. F.C.A., late Professor of Commerce, London University), and many others.

There is not a day which passes, there is not a business difficulty which occurs, there is not a piece of office routine in which you would not find the help of the "Business Encyclopædia" of considerable value to you. We are not speaking in a general sense; we are speaking to every commercial man, and are speaking of every business and every profession. The "Business Encyclopædia" is as extensively used by business principals as by managers and clerks, and all classes find it equally valuable.

The shopkeeper finds it valuable because it helps him to get more business. The clerk finds it valuable because it helps him

to get a better position.

The office manager finds it valuable because it helps him to organise his staff and his work. It is valuable to the managing director, or the secretary, or the accountant, or the correspondent for similar reasons. If all these men find it valuable to them, what justification is there for your thought that it will not be equally valuable to you? The greatest mistake that any man can make is to think that he can dispense with aids which more successful men have found indispensable. The reason they succeed is because they do not disdain expert help.

In the "Business Encyclopædia" you can have this help always ready at your elbow, ready to refer to whenever need arises.

Three Opinions.

1. MESSRS. J. S. FRY AND SONS, BRISTOL:
   "We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is THE WORK par excellence for every business man to possess."
2. A TRADESMAN'S OPINION:
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A BRIGHT PARTICULAR STAR.

By Herbert Vivian.

I have read all the works of Mrs. Baillie-Saunders, and behold! they are very good. But the best of them all is "Litany Lane" (Hutchinson, 1909, 6s.).

The joy and the surprise of Mrs. Baillie-Saunders consist in the wild exuberance of her language. She has a way of heaping up adjectives and covering her canvas again and again until the plain person is bewildered and entranced. In her early books, bewilderment almost overcame the delight. When you have about ten adjectives to explain a smile or a voice, you nearly resent them as a species of fumbling. Now, however, Mrs. Baillie-Saunders has curbed her eloquence and chastened her exuberance. She has also given up the reprehensible habit of plastering her pages with her own opinions about men, women, and manners. It has at last occurred to her that the opinions of a novelist are far more convincing when they appear in the mouths of her puppets.

This exordium seems very rude and ungrateful, when I remember what great delight I have found in all the works of Mrs. Baillie-Saunders. But one is, perhaps, allowed to be hypercritical in criticising very good work. Mrs. Baillie-Saunders has an amazing gift of imagining fantastic plots and creating real live characters. They are all the more alive because none of them is entirely sympathetic. To create an unsympathetic character and make the wretch fascinate, interest, absorb you, excite you as to his fortunes, is indeed wonderful. I have, for my sins, read innumerable novels, but here is the only instance of unattractive persons compelling my attention and curiosity as to their future.

Mrs. Baillie-Saunders possesses an unique understanding of London and Londoners. She knows and interprets the sufferings and the courage of the poor; she exhibits their nobility and their generosity and their wit and their intolerance of humbug to an extraordinary degree. She is a democrat in the highest sense, and possesses a wonderful insight into the greatness of small persons.

She is also very interesting as a theologian. She evidently understands all the mysteries and intricacies of ritual, she exalts priests, and transfigures them until they occupy pedestals and presume to dictate in a royal manner which is almost an assumption of the divine.

This book is intended to be a pronouncement, I gather, on the Church's attitude towards divorce. The dogmatic priest, who is probably the hero, utterly, absolutely, emphatically refuses to marry a divorced man to a genius of the gutter. The only result is that he marries her at a registry office, and I venture to submit in all humility that it is inconsistent, though obviously human, when the priest recognises this civil marriage and urges the uncanonical wife to return to her conjugal duties. Surely, if he disbelieved in divorce and civil marriage, his orthodox attitude would have been to try to put asunder those whom God had not joined.

Having picked all the holes I can, I now take the liberty of proclaiming that this is one of the most striking books that I have read for a very long time. The ingenuity of the plot provides incessant surprises and a continuity of delight. The magic of words is there too. Anyone can choose out unusual expressions, but it is only the rare few who find absolutely the right adjective, the right simile, the right atmosphere.

Mrs. Baillie-Saunders has an extraordinarily keen sense of smell. I have often wondered why so few novelists possess noses. With the exception of about one Russian and, perhaps, three French writers, there is scarcely anyone who exhibits any consciousness of what is, perhaps, the most subtle sense of life. Smells touch her imagination. In one of her works she compared an atmosphere to old hymn-books or damp prayer-books. Here, again and again, she conjures up and realises and impresses a situation by an appeal to the nose.

> The hot stuffy smell of the crowded court was in his nostrils—stale breath and patchouli and ink and lilies.

"Ink and lilies" are a touch of genius. But the whole book is a work of genius, and I should require many pages to begin to indicate its peculiar charm. Mrs. Baillie-Saunders has now found her feet and may look forward with confidence to a great career. Hers are almost the only books, excepting those of Voltaire and Disraeli, that I can read over and over again with increasing pleasure.

THE "BABY" PARSON.

THE MOTHER'S REPLY TO THE VICAR.

It will be remembered that in our issue of November 20th the Rev. J. L. Thomas, Vicar of Aberpergwm, attempted to show that he was not to blame in his treatment of a young girl, as described in our issue of October 30th.

It was the sort of defence—an attempt to throw the blame upon the child (the girl was little more)—that a gentleman would avoid, but such as it was we printed it. We have now received a letter from the child's mother, which we think it right to publish. It runs as below:—

> I feel I cannot allow the statements which the Vicar of Aberpergwm makes in his letter to you, in which he says my daughter was unhappy at home, to pass unnoticed. I deny them. The child, in her girlish way, used to say she was very lonely, and rightly so, because at the time there was all going on, we lived in a very lonely place—no social life and no companionship of young people was to be had in that part; and having only just left school, she felt the want of this terribly; but the Vicar, of course, ignores the truth, wishes people to think this meant unhappiness at home, which is a wilful and deliberate misinterpretation of the child's remarks.
>
> As to the assertion of her father's cruel treatment of me, the child denies having said so; it is a complete fabrication on the Vicar's part, and I cannot and will not allow such a wicked and false statement to go uncontradicted. He is as kind and thoughtful a father and husband as anyone could wish to have, and again I most flatly deny the Vicar's words, whose abuse of my confidence in him I feel most keenly.

It will be noticed that the mother charges the Vicar with traducing her husband. It is not true, she says, that her husband has ever ill-treated her. "I cannot and will not allow such a wicked and false statement to go uncontradicted. He is as kind and thoughtful a father and husband as anyone could wish to have." Nor is it true, she says, that her daughter ever told the Vicar anything of the kind. He has been guilty, as she alleges, of "a wilful and deliberate misinterpretation of the child's remarks."

Having regard to the very serious charge made by the writer of the letter, affecting, as it does, the honour and reputation of a minister of the Church of England, we thought it only fair to the Vicar to send him a copy of the letter, inviting him to make any reply he might think fit. His answer does not amount to much. He says that the notes he has so carefully kept prove that the girl made the complaints attributed to her, and as for the "unnatural" conduct of the father, Mr. Thomas thinks it is sufficiently proved by the fact that he communicated his grievances to us!

BLACK AND WHITE.

A WARNING WORD FROM AFRICA.

A correspondent from South Africa says we can leave our wives and families in safety at home, but that, whenever he leaves his homestead in South Africa, he has to send his wife away and lock the place up until his return. In corroboration of this fact, he sends us a report of an outrage committed by a "half-civilized" native whom the police did not succeed in arresting. He says that the worst natives are those who have obtained a veneer of civilization in missionary schools. Accordingly, he argues that it would be much better not to subscribe to missionary societies. "The African negro," he says, "is a child; if pampered, turns out dangerous; if educated beyond his intellectual capacity, he becomes filled with bombast and in his heart is smouldering a fierce longing to wipe out the whites. Once the missionary accomplishes his purpose, the native receives all the white man's vices and none of his virtues. He takes to loud dress and to frivolity and drink. . . . Nearly always the victim is some poor helpless white woman, often some poor girl who has not long since left her English home to settle out here with her husband. Can you wonder at our disgust when we hear people in high places for ever advocating equal rights for black and white? They are no more fit for the franchise than baboons, and won't be for years. I wish some of those who are so keen on trying to cut our throats and those of our women and children would invite these natives to England and keep them there. It is no good going for two or three natives who happen to be cute enough to get into tow with big nobs in the old country."

The Political Plum Pudding—Next Week.

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INVENTIONS.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

This supercilious generation is always crowing over our forefathers because they did not possess the alleged conveniences of to-day. If we believed the ordinary man in the street, the Englishmen of one or two hundred years ago were almost benighted barbarians in comparison with the ingenious persons of this year of grace. They may have had more courage and self-respect and a keener sense of honour, but look at their lack of conveniences! Why, the poor fellows had to crawl about the country in coaches instead of fragrant and melodious motors. There were no telephones to enable a Londoner to contradict a friend at York; there may have been leisure, but hustling was an impossibility. There may have been wonderful literature, but halfpenny newspapers were yet unborn!

Slaves of the Tube.

Let us consider some of the more popular conveniences of this Golden Age. I will not go into the endless new means of locomotion beyond expressing a doubt whether there is any particular joy about being in practically two places at once. But I will draw your attention to some of the obvious imperfections of our boasted advantages. Take tubes. You can buzz between Hanwell and Holloway, or some such places, even faster than if you were pursued by a pack of wolves. But if you are condemned by the exigencies of business or pleasure to travel in this way every day, you soon become a slave to the tube and acquire that peculiarly vacant expression which might be summed up as the "tube face." After all, a tube is by no means unlike a penal settlement. It often reminds me of a salt mine, where unhappy convicts rush about in droves clanking their chains. As in a salt mine, you enter a lift and go down into the bowels of the earth. There, similarly, you find an uncanny atmosphere, where strange warm winds appear suddenly from nowhere. There is a forbidding silence broken only by metallic noises, such as the clatter of iron gates. There are long hideous corridors or tunnels, which would be equally appropriate in a jail or in a mine. Boarding a car is suggestive of the treadmill. A conductor is forever enjoining you to hurry, and you realise that a moment's delay may cause you to miss your footing and expose you to disaster. Then there are horrible straps which might easily be accessories to instruments of torture. A car stops, and you cling frantically to a strap, half-wondering when the flogging is to begin. Then it is almost a relief when a violent jerk sends you into collision with another victim. I know what I shall do with all my enemies when I come into power. I shall condemn them to hard labour for life as conductors in the tubes. At least it will help to train them for the exercises which await them in the next world.

The Curse of Caligraphy.

I think that the frequenters of tubes are perhaps the stupidest people I have ever met. No wonder! Have you ever listened to their conversation? A man there gave me some food for reflection the other day. I heard him asking for a ticket for Holborn and, to my disgust, I observed that he deliberately pronounced the "l" in that word. I also caught a young woman pronouncing the "t" in often. These incidents induced serious philosophical thoughts as to the influence of writing on language. If no one had ever invented caligraphy, words would be handed down in a natural way. There would, doubtless, be developments of language, some of them due to climatic changes, others to physiological developments, such as the enlargement of a tongue or the contraction of a nasal aperture. It is probably through some cause of this kind that the Yankees have come down to their present jargon. But we should not have ignorant people altering the national speech merely because many words are not written as they should be pronounced. I remember asking my way to Pepys Road in a suburb, and failing to make myself intelligible because the whole of the uneducated population had decided that it must obviously be pronounced as a dissyllable. No doubt it would be a large order, as well as a difficult affair, to abolish writing, but I am by no means sure that the world would suffer much from the loss. Have you ever glanced at a modern novel of the baser sort? Have you ever heard of Mr. John Long?

Trivial Toys.

What I have often noticed about inventions is that they are terribly limited. They are announced with a great flourish of trumpets, and either you hear nothing more of them, or they do not develop beyond the usefulness of a toy. An instance of this is the dictaphone, which was supposed to be going to supersede stenographers. Indeed, all kinds of phonographs are still devoid of practical utility. They only reproduce a caricature of the human voice, and their singing performances are as sounding brass. Yet what a fuss was made when their discovery was first heralded. Even telephones are very far from perfect, and I am inclined to think that on the whole they waste more time than they save. Have you ever hung about in a post-office while the officials are trying to connect you with somebody in the next street? Oftener than not it is much simpler to walk round and see your man face to face. And the telephone, like most of the devices of the hustler, tends to the deterioration of good manners. A man who is in a hurry unconsciously becomes abrupt, and the patience of operators who are permanently concerned with time-saving engines is so sorely tried, that ill-temper on their part is almost excusable.

Indifferent Inventors.

The triviality of inventions is explained to a certain extent by the mediocrity of inventors' minds. Even Edison, the most blatant of all inventors, never seemed capable of much more than self-glorification, like an actor. Certainly he will not be glorified in history, so perhaps the poor creature should be excused for blowing his own trumpet. As for the inventors who have made money, it has generally been by means of some trifling, childish device which does not benefit anybody seriously, and which ought to have occurred to the meanest intelligence long ago. For instance, I understand that quite a large fortune was made by the wonderful discovery that a piece of indiarubber might be conveniently attached to a lead pencil.

Ideal Inventions.

Think of the thousands of important inventions which still remain to be made. Why, after all these centuries, we are only now beginning to learn to fly, and can scarcely claim to rival the stupidest of birds. To take a very simple point, no cheap and portable machine has yet been discovered for the speedy manufacture of ice in hot countries. All the united wits of chemists and psychologists have failed to think of a means for enabling us to do without sleep, a state of unconsciousness which wastes nearly half our lives. No invention has attempted to grapple with the simplest of the problems of poverty. Why does not some genius devise a nourishing food which could be produced for practically nothing? Endless efforts have been lavished in pursuit of the Philosopher's Stone, which was to transmute base metals into gold, and it never occurred to the wiseacres that if gold became as common as brass it would lose its value as a means of exchange. A really practical Philosopher's Stone would turn mud into meat, and do away with hunger once and for all. The housing question might also be solved by some such stroke of genius. Why not invent a substitute for dwellings, either providing a garment capable of resisting all the furies of the elements, or else toughening the human frame so that even garments might be unnecessary? The Elixir of Life again has exercised generations of enquirers, but no one has yet thought of hunting for a herb which would endow us with perpetual good humour. All I ask of inventors is that they should abolish sadness, and hunger and poverty, but all they can do for me is to offer a fast passage to Jericho or America, and enable me to converse over a wire with bores whom I am only anxious to avoid. I believe inventors are in league with the police and the doctors and the clergy and the magistrates, and all those persons who thrive through the misfortunes of the human race. We ask them for bread, and they do not even give us the Philosopher's Stone.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page iii. of Cover.

"Should Christmas be Abolished?"—Next week.

EMPLOYMENT after EDUCATION

A PROBLEM SOLVED.

THE VIEWS OF THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH, THE KING'S SOLICITOR-GENERAL, Sir SAMUEL EVANS, and Sir ALBERT ROLLIT

(Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.)

THE recent remarks of such men as Sir Samuel Evans, the King's Solicitor-General, and Sir Albert Rollit, Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, cannot fail to be of interest to all concerned in the welfare of the rising generation.

HISTORY.

The Solicitor-General, from the chair at the recent twenty-first anniversary of Kensington College, said:—

"The history of the College is the history of a progressive institution, which is really required in our educational system. Constantly men in public life have brought to their attention young people, some from the schools, some from the colleges—yes, indeed, some from the Universities—who say they have attained their degrees or achieved success in their colleges and schools, and who yet do not know how to perform the actual work of life. That part of the educational system of this counry which is deficient in many respects from the public point of view appears to me to be admirably done by this College. The College is certainly, as I think, filling a most excellent place in our educational system."

Sir Albert Rollit, on the same occasion, stated that, in his opinion, "the College had solved one of the greatest, the most complex and the most difficult of all educational problems—that of securing Employment after Education."

The Duchess of Marlborough referred to the great pleasure it had been to her to come into personal contact with the students of the College. She had watched them at their work with the keenest interest, and commended especially the *practical* nature of the instruction given. She said:—

"It is this practical aspect which especially appeals to me, for we all know that many young men and young women who have received the highest education are unable, from want of knowledge of technical and secretarial work, to obtain posts worthy of their acceptance. The education which they receive at Kensington College does away with this difficulty, and completes their training, making it efficient and business-like. They are not only fitted to fill posts, but they are also guaranteed a good position to start with."

Her Grace went on to wish all the students—and in particular the young women students—the greatest success in their careers, and stated she considered much credit was due to the Director, Mr. J. Munford, for the splendid results achieved by the graduates of Kensington College.

Mr. James Munford was able to state in the course of his speech that on this twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of the College there was not a single qualified student seeking an appointment, and that during the past year the applications for the services of the College graduates had exceeded the number of students available.

The college had also succeeded in capturing the blue riband of the London Chamber of Commerce for proficiency in modern languages, and had obtained a long list of successes at the various examinations.

AIM.

The aim of Kensington College is to provide for every boy and girl a definite and practical training, followed by the absolute guarantee of a remunerative career as soon as the student be qualified to perform the duties thereof.

MOTTO.

The motto adopted by the College is one suggested by the Right Hon. the Earl of Lytton, when speaking from the chair at a recent distribution. Having in mind Dante's dread warning over the gates of the Inferno, he thought it would be appropriate to inscribe over the portals of Kensington College the following variation thereof: "Have every hope all ye who enter here."

TRAINING.

The students are trained as private secretaries, English and foreign correspondents, accountants, and bookkeepers, and for other vocations of a responsible and remunerative nature.

MODEL OFFICES.

When the academic side of the training is complete, and all the subjects which comprise the lower rungs of the ladder of success have been mastered, the students are drafted into the "Model Offices," which are fitted up with all the requisites of a secretarial bureau. Here will be found students who can speak modern languages almost as fluently as their mother tongue; who can write shorthand, type their own notes accurately, and also perform journalistic duties.

In the absence of the chief they are capable of taking charge of the office, of interviewing visitors, and of conducting the greater part of his correspondence. They go on missions of delicacy as ambassadors and bring important negotiations to a successful issue; they write an essay or lecture, get out statistics, and make searching literary investigations.

KENSINGTON COLLEGE DIPLOMA.

When they have thus given sufficient practical proof of their ability to discharge their duties in a thoroughly efficient manner, they are granted the Kensington College Diploma, which may be truly said to be more valuable than the diploma of any other institution in the world, seeing that the holder possesses the right of introduction to a dignified and remunerative appointment.

GUARANTEED APPOINTMENTS AND SALARIES.

Improbable as it may seem to the uninitiated, the trouble at Kensington College is not to secure appointments for the candidates, but to prepare quickly enough properly qualified candidates to fill the ever-increasing number of vacancies placed in the hands of the director.

The opinion which the late Lord Numburnholme held of Kensington College is evidenced by his taking the chair at a recent distribution of prizes by her Grace the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, and by his lordship having applied to the College for the services of secretaries at salaries of £130 (for a lady), £250, and £800 per annum.

The Rev. Canon Barker said on the same occasion:—

"Kensington College differs from any other I have ever heard of, inasmuch as it not only educates the students, but provides positions for them in the world afterwards."

SOUVENIR BOOKLET.

A card adressed to Miss Dixon, Secretary, Kensington College, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W., will bring full particulars of the Guaranteed Appointment System, as well as a dainty souvenir booklet, similar to that recently graciously accepted by her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll.

CONSULTATIONS.

The Director is ever ready to give his advice on the subject of a suitable career for boy or girl, and to give detailed and expert counsel of the greatest value.

"'THE THING' AT CAMBRIDGE."

Our recent article under the above heading has called forth many replies, from which we select the following:—

From a Graduate.

I have read the letter of your "Sour Undergraduate." As I have just graduated after three very happy years at Cambridge, I think you ought to publish this reply unless somebody has sent you a better one. I object to the counts of his indictment on the grounds that they are either exaggerated or untrue.

First as to clothes. I don't know if there is such a thing as an undergraduate whose clothes were cut in Bond Street. I should doubt it.

The majority wear flannel breeches and Norfolk jackets. Nor are these garments particularly good of their kind.

There are dressy men. They are popularly known as "bloods," and are looked upon with good-natured ridicule.

True, it is considered the thing to turn up one's trousers. Is that more ridiculous than fashions usually are? With regard to College authorities conniving at beastly drunkenness, a word must be said. Your correspondent evidently refers to "Bump Suppers." When a boat does well on the river, the men of the club have a champagne supper, and generally follow that up by lighting a bonfire in the court, dancing round it, and in other ways behaving like amiable savages. Most of them are excited; a few are what a policeman might call drunk. No harm is done as a rule, and the dons do not interfere until things show signs of going too far. If they did, I should urge them to become members of the John Bull League. These "Bump Suppers" take place twice a year.

At Cambridge, as at other places, rich men can easily buy toadies. But I think money counts for less at Cambridge than in any other place I know. A man who displays money lavishly, "stinks of money" in the vernacular, is disliked and left alone except by the said toadies.

Ragging, which is really a sort of lynch law, exists, and always will exist where men live together in masses. At Cambridge, it is milder and rarer than in the Army, for instance. I speak with some knowledge of both. I don't defend the custom, but at Cambridge I have never known it directed against anyone who was not aggressively offensive. Nor do I believe that it ever takes the form of hitting a man over the head with a shovel.

For the rest, sir, I have only to say that undergraduates who push women off the paths are the kind of beast that may be met anywhere. There are not many here.

I often used to carry home my purchases in parcels; most of my friends did the same. I don't think we were unpopular in consequence. I never wore an amalgamation blazer in hall for the same reason that I wouldn't wear a dinner jacket at breakfast. It isn't the custom.

Your correspondent's last sentence gives his case away, I think. The wealthy bounder can find friends, he says. Good heavens! The man has a weird idea of friendship! A man may be unpopular at Cambridge, as elsewhere, owing to his having an unfortunate manner. The "Sour Undergraduate" is probably a man of this kind. But at the same time he is very unjust.

Undergraduates are mostly gentlemen; they are not cruel; they are not cowardly as a class; they do not tolerate lying or slander; and, lastly, drunkenness is not a common vice at Cambridge. In short, I think the typical undergraduate is very human and rather lovable. I wish your correspondent could see him in the same light.

An "Ordinary Undergraduate's" Views.

Your issue of the 13th inst. contains a scurrilous article, the authorship of which is concealed under the anonymity of "A Sour Undergraduate." I am one of those who he would say read it "only to revile"; but in so far as his impotent clamourings are worthy of anything in the nature of a reply, there are one or two remarks which ought to be brought to the notice of the author of this self-imposed task.

In the first place, he commences his tale of woe by saying that "he is not beloved by men in this University." Surely his subsequent remarks render this interesting statement—which I am quite prepared to believe—superfluous. We have all heard of men who come up to both Universities as freshmen with the boisterous intention of becoming "heavy bloods," and their turbulent activities in that direction are what some seem to designate as "attempts to assimilate their conduct" to their fellow undergraduates. Their mistake, however, usually dawns upon them in their second or third terms. And when the truth has been brought home to them, the majority are sensible enough to see the error of their former ways and to settle down and toe the line properly; but there are some—and I submit that "Sour Undergraduate" is of their number—who take refuge in throwing mud at those with whom they have found it impossible to "assimilate" themselves.

Oxford and Cambridge are hotbeds of etiquette, and no place for those who cannot see their way to complying with customs. Consequently, it is not surprising to find that a "hardworking scholar" who goes into Hall wearing his amalgamation blazer, and whose other garments do—or perhaps do not—contain "ill-concealed patches," finds that he has—to use a colloquialism—"dropped a brick."

Apart from the vindictive spirit in which the article seems to be written, it contains charges the precise accuracy of which is more than doubtful. I should like to know what authority—except perhaps his own experiences—"Sour Undergraduate" is prepared to adduce for such statements as that "the thing" at Cambridge is to kick the man who is down until he gets up—not to rag till the odds are ten to one—to accept sartorial perfection and culinary excellence as criterions of values, and so forth.

There are things in every such place as a University which one would prefer not to find there; but to say that such constitute the majority is an accusation which ought not to be brought forward without the strongest proof.

If only "Sour Undergraduate" were *not* a Cambridge man!

What a "B.A." Says.

I do not think you will refuse space in your columns for a few remarks upon the pathetic communication of "A Sour Undergraduate," in a recent issue. Truly, he is to be congratulated that "our ways are not his ways"! We remember a similar point being made in the case of Pharisee *v.* Publican in the Temple Court at Jerusalem some years ago, although we believe that in that case the verdict went against "the man who valued his own proper pride." If the picture drawn by "A Sour Undergraduate" be a true one, then surely the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah was very unjust—the fire and brimstone should have been reserved for Oxford and Cambridge.

I have spent three years at Cambridge; I did not come from a Public School; I do not give dinners; and I do not buy my clothes in Bond Street. As a matter of fact, I get them ready-made in Cambridge; and yet I can solemnly assert that I have never been hit on the head with a shovel.

I do know men who occasionally get drunk: perhaps I should say "give exhibitions of beastly drunkenness." I do know some who now and then rag "limits"; once I believe I saw two men actually "lounging about the street gate of their college." At the same time, I can heartily endorse "A Sour Undergraduate's" generous admission that "every Cambridge undergraduate does not adhere strictly to this code." As far as my experience goes, I have found the majority, the vast majority, honourable, manly, English gentlemen, who detest self-righteous humbugs, but who are always ready to accept a good fellow and who take a man for what he is worth irrespective of his school or his income. May I add that I do not think "A Sour Undergraduate's" unpopularity will end with his University career?

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"John Bull's" Greetings.

December 4th.—Fritz Baedeker.
No other guide I seek.—*Milton.*

December 5th.—Sir Frederick Bridge.
Instinct with music.—*Wordsworth.*

December 5th.—Tom Gallon.
His very faults smack of the *raciness* of his good qualities.—*Washington Irving.*

December 9th.—Algernon Ashton.
Homo multarum literarum.—Proverbial.

December 9th.—George Grossmith.
Make 'em laugh.—*Charles Reade.*

A Christmas Story by Walter Moore.—Next week.

HUMAN DOCUMENT—LXVIII.

WORK, NOT MONEY, WANTED.

Perhaps some one of our readers may be in a position to offer the sender of the following employment. His references are from well-known architects and others, and we shall be happy to place any reader who is in a position to help him in communication with the writer :—

I do *not* desire in any way any *financial* assistance. I have repeatedly tried all channels, inserted advertisements answered every advertisement that I see in my line—*i.e.*, the building trade, but of no avail.

For over fourteen years I was general foreman and estimating clerk to an old-established firm of builders. I left them to start in business with a partner, and after some bad speculations, debts, etc., customer going bankrupt, and a firm of unscrupulous architects foreclosing upon us, compelled us to give up, and now this enforced idleness is enough to drive one distracted.

I am an able estimator, expert draughtsman, accurate bookkeeper, thoroughly practical in all branches of the trade, age 40 years, would be content with a very modest salary. My character will bear the strictest investigation, can furnish the highest references and testimonials; never been discharged from any situation; willing to do anything and anywhere.

We have to acknowledge further sums for Human Document No. LXVI.:—1s., Sympathy; 2s. 6d. from J. A.; 2s. 6d. from E. O'K.; 2s. 6d. from A. E. J. B.; 1s. 6d. from R. E.

We have received on behalf of Human Document No. LXVII. further monies from the following readers, which we have forwarded as requested:—1s., A. R. L. (New Cross); 5s., ex-Soldier (Southsea); 2s. 6d., D. M. (Cricklewood); 2s. 6d., S. W. C. (London); 5s., "A Sympathiser (South Woodford); 2s., F. P.; 2s., A. P. (Streatham); 5s., "Native of Bedford"; 2s. 6d., F. R. B. (Earl's Court); 1s. 6d., T. F. N. (Hull); £1, A. C. D.; 10s., W. T.; 2s. 6d., S. H. W. (Manchester); 2s. 6d., F. N. H. (Plymouth); 2s. 6d., P. B. (Streatham); 3s. 6d., M. R. L. (Forest Gate); 2s., "Commiseration"; 2s. 6d., P. O. F.; 4s., T. G. J. (Swansea); 20s., X.Y.Z.

We have received the following from the wife of the soldier whose Human Document (LXVII.) has been answered so generously by many of our readers:—"We have received the further postal orders quite safe. We do most thankfully acknowledge them. We are over-joyed, and it does not seem it can be possible to receive this help and kindness. I have shed tears of sorrow, but now my sorrow is turned to joy. My husband and myself wish to thank you kind gentlemen for helping us in such a splendid way in sending everything so very nice. My heart is full of gratitude to you and to those kind and generous people."

Several readers have directed our attention to the sentence in Human Document LXVII. in which it is written, "the man is thirty," and they point out that if he was fourteen years in the Army, and was discharged at the close of the South African War, he could only have been about nine years of age when he entered the Army, which would of course be absurd. The explanation is very simple. The word "thirty" should have been "thrifty." The curious in such matters will note that the context proves this.

THE "STYLO SUPPLY" SWINDLE.

HOW THE TRICK IS WORKED.

We are induced to give this, the first full exposure of this widespread fraud, owing to the great number of readers—some of them in pitiable circumstances—who have written us.

Upon responding to the seductive "home work" advertisement, to which we have already referred, the poor people are informed that if they buy a fountain pen at from 3s. 6d. upwards, they can obtain 9s. 6d. a thousand for addressing envelopes. After paying for a pen, they get a printed list of 900 odd publicans' names and addresses, and are informed that they must purchase "at about 7s. a thousand," foolscap envelopes "of the same colour and thickness" as the sample then enclosed, and must pay the carriage on the work. The "9s. 6d. per thousand" is thus reduced to about 1s. 6d.—addressing a thousand envelopes probably meaning to a novice a couple of days' hard work.

Should the victims be forced by hunger to do the work for this pitiable wage—about a penny an hour—they are informed that their envelopes are not up to sample and that the pen (supposed to be essential to the work) can be returned, *if it has not been used!* If this does not choke them off, they would doubtless be met by the objection that a thousand envelopes have not been addressed—very few would think of counting them when they arrive.

Apart from the gross deception as to the remuneration, the barefaced nature of the fraud is evident from the fact that *everybody apparently receives the same printed list to copy.*

What are the police doing?

Somerville's
Scotch Whisky
the finest that Scotland can produce
at wholesale prices direct from Scotland

In preparing your list of Christmas Gifts, what could be more acceptable to your friends—either business or personal—than to send them some of our Genuine Scotch Whisky? Write us a week or so before Christmas with their names and addresses, enclosing remittance for value, and we shall arrange for free delivery before Christmas Eve.

Packing Free. **Special terms for large orders.**

Guaranteed Ages	POST FREE 3 BOTS.	Carriage paid your railway station. 6 BOTS.	12 BOTS.
4 Years Old	9/6	18/6	36/-
6 Years Old	11/-	21/6	42/-
10 Years Old	12/6	24/6	48/-

Sample Half Bottles of above can be had, Post Free, 1/9, 2/- and 2/3 respectively.

Fill up this Order Form and post to us with your remittance TO-DAY.

John Somerville & Co., Ltd., Distillers, Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

Established 1826.

ORDER FORM.

To Messrs. JOHN SOMERVILLE & Co., LTD., Distillers, Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

I enclose remittance value.....for which please send me.....bottles of Somerville's.....years old Scotch Whisky **on condition that if it is not the finest Whisky at the price I shall be entitled to have my money refunded.** J.B. 4/12/'09.

Name.....

Address.....

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES.

In another column we draw attention to the fact that in the Witney blanket case, Mr. Horace Avory, K.C., acting for the defendants, protested against a proposal to read over to a new magistrate, who had taken the place of Sir John Pound, the depositions of the witnesses already called. He said that his experience taught him that such a course was unfair to a defendant—and yet it is but a few months ago that this same King's Counsel, then representing the Crown, insisted on adopting such a course against the defendants in *Rex v. Bottomley and others!* We hope the Bar is proud of such a leader.

THE CRIME OF POVERTY.

A few days ago, George Long was brought before the Otley Bench of Magistrates charged with begging bread and deliberately and wilfully eating it. It seems that an alert constable discovered Long munching the bread in an outhouse and promptly took him to the police-station. It was shown in evidence that the man was in a starving condition when he begged the bread, but that fact did not suggest itself to the magistrates as important, and they sentenced the poor devil to a month's imprisonment with hard labour. We refer to the matter in another column.

"ESTIMABLE" MAGISTRATES.

According to the *Haverford West Telegraph*, a large proportion of the Mathry Justices of the Peace "seem to be estimable local Liberals," but for the credit of local Liberalism we hope that these "estimable" men were not on the bench the other day, when three navvies were brought before them charged with killing two rabbits. It was shown in evidence that the men made no resistance when arrested; that they were navvies with good records, and that one of them had a wife and six children to keep. We should have thought that a very nominal punishment would have been sufficient vindication of the law, but these "estimable" gentlemen, the Mathry Justices, thought otherwise, and they sentenced all three men to two months' imprisonment with hard labour, and directed that at the expiration of that period each must find one surety of £10, or two of £5, in default of which they would be imprisoned for a further term of six calendar months, and it looks as though they would get it.

LEGAL ANSWERS.

PALMISTRY PROSECUTION.—*V. M.*—These prosecutions are strictly in accordance with law and are very salutary in their effects. It does not matter whether a fee is charged or not.

INTESTATE'S ESTATE.—H. D. W.—The freehold goes to the heir at law but the widow is entitled to a life interest in one third of it. The other property is divided—one third going to the widow and the other to the children.

MAINTENANCE OF DIVORCED WIFE.—IGNORAMUS.—The court can make an order for alimony, that is maintenance, against the husband if he is earning sufficient to justify such a course.

SWEEPSTAKE.—DARKY.—This is a lottery and is illegal.

MILITARY COURTS.—COTT.—Courts martial deal with ordinary military offences, but where a serious offence such as murder is committed, the soldier is handed over to the civil authorities to be dealt with.

SWEATING.—(Bellevue.)—There is no legal definition, but the term means employing labour at a remuneration below the living wage.

DILAPIDATIONS.—BOW.—If you sub-leased the property you are still liable under the covenants in your lease.

SERVANTS' EXPENSES.—H. BAYENDALE.—It is customary for the employer to pay expenses in such cases or to provide food and lodging. You should lay the matter before him.

STAMP ON AGREEMENT.—A. A. (Longton.)—A sixpenny postage stamp affixed before the first signature is written and cancelled is sufficient for such agreements as you mention.

MORTGAGE.—HOTSPUR.—The usual period is six months, and he is entitled to that unless in his deed he has specially agreed to three.

TERMS OF WILL.—VIATOR.—We should advise you to make a fresh will or a codicil to the present one, making it quite clear that the widow takes all in the event of the sons dying, as otherwise the next of kin might claim.

LEGACY.—SOAP.—We never recommend any solicitors, but if you have a good case you should put the matter in the hands of some solicitor in your town.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

OUR BUSINESS GOVERNMENT COMPETITION.

The first batch of cheques in connection with this competition has now been despatched, and a special staff is engaged upon the work of checking the claims, with a view to all awards being sent out before Christmas. It is quite impossible for us to enter into any individual correspondence upon the matter.

GRENFELL, FRAZIER'S
XMAS & NEW YEARS GIFTS

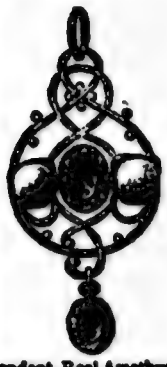
CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

18 ct. Gold, Four Diamonds and Three Rubies or Sapphires, £3 10 0.

There is twice the pleasure in giving a Christmas Present which is useful as well as pretty. Well-meaning people waste thousands of pounds every year upon "pretty" gifts, which are utterly valueless to the recipients.

JEWELLERY IS ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE.

Ladies as well as gentlemen prefer gifts of jewellery because such gifts are useful and ornamental. A brooch, a ring, a bangle, a tie-pin, these make unfailingly welcome Christmas gifts. The great variety of our stock makes gift choosing delightfully easy. Our Catalogue illustrates hundreds of distinctive and dainty new designs; all priced at wholesale.



Pendant, Real Amethysts £1 1 0

ALL OUR GEMS ARE GENUINE,

and our hall-mark is the English hall-mark—the highest standard of hall-marking jewellery. Our 20 years' reputation is an adequate guarantee of satisfaction to every buyer; besides which

we freely exchange any articles not approved.

Tie-pin, 15 ct. Gold, Real Pearl. 15s. 6d.

GET OUR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,

free on request. Full of undeniable bargains in every kind of jewellery.

We supply customers

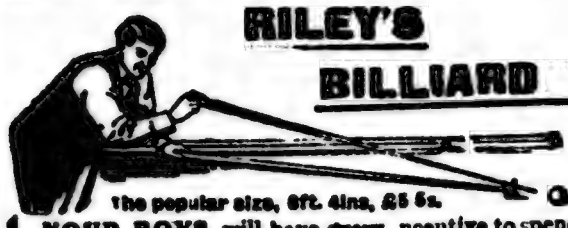
ALL OVER THE WORLD

with our jewellery at wholesale prices, and we have never had a dissatisfied customer on our books.

Send Postcard for Catalogue To-day.

GRENFELL, FRAZIER & CO., (Dept. 60),
12, 14, 16, EDGWARE ROAD, LONDON.
(Near Marble Arch).

RILEY'S
BILLIARD TABLES.



The popular size, 6ft. 4ins, £5 5s.

YOUR BOYS will have every incentive to spend their evenings at home if you instal a Riley Billiard Table. Billiards is the ideal indoor game—never monotonous—never wearying. Played on RILEY'S MINIATURE TABLES the game is just as correct as on the standard tables. ¶ RILEY'S Billiard Tables to place on your own dining table from £3 7s 6d. ¶ RILEY'S Combine Billiard and Dining Tables—converted in a minute—from £13 10s. 0d. Cash or Easy Payments. These prices include all accessories. Carriage paid to nearest railway station.

FREE on receipt of postcard, full detailed Illustrated Catalogue.

E. J. RILEY, LTD., PERFECTION BILLIARD WORKS, ACCRINGTON.
London Showrooms: 147, Aldersgate Street, E.C.

MOLASSINE
DOG AND PUPPY CAKES

are suitable for

ALL KINDS OF DOGS AND PUPPIES,

No Fancy Preparations being necessary.

These foods are composed of the purest ingredients only. Their unique effects are due to the antiseptic properties of the foods of which the cakes are compounded.

They aid digestion, keep dogs' skins and coats in fine condition, eradicate internal worms and parasites, and prevent the dogs smelling.

ABSOLUTELY DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER CAKES.

Sold by Grocers, Stores, Corn Merchants, and

THE MOLASSINE COMPANY Ltd.,
112, Tunnel Avenue, GREENWICH, S.E.

In districts where these Cakes are not stocked by Dealers, we pay carriage to Consumers on quantities of 28 lbs. and upwards. Send for Samples.

"Molassine Meal the Food for all Animals."

"John Bull's" Letter to Father Christmas.—Next week.

"JOHN BULL" says:—

"... It has always been the firm's boast that better value can be obtained from them than from anyone else..... We can quite understand their claim—nay, more, we can heartily endorse it."
("JOHN BULL," July 31, 1909.)

"JOHN BULL" were then speaking of the

MIDLAND FURNISHING Co., Ltd.,

15, 17, 19, 21 & 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

(Their premises are 6 doors from the Holborn Restaurant and the Holborn Station of the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton Railway, and 5 minutes' from Oxford Circus.)

Model Flats and Specimen Rooms.

These Model Flats are priced at £50, £100, £250, £500, and £1,000 they were specially built and decorated by us, are furnished **completely** at the various stated sums. Here you can see just what you want, and at just the price you are prepared to pay. Even if you are not thinking of purchasing the schemes of decoration are an education in themselves We also show some beautiful Specimen Rooms, ranging in price from £10 to £300 complete. These rooms are furnished in all styles, and the colour schemes are quite out of the ordinary.

Illustrated Guide and Catalogue.

POST FREE.

Should you be unable to visit our Showrooms, write for our Illustrated Guide and Catalogue, which will be sent, post free, upon request. This book will be found of great value to all intending furnishers. Everything for the house is shown from Kitchen to Drawing Room. Scales for complete furnishing from £29 to £750 are also shown.

Large Satin Walnut BEDROOM SUITE, beautifully carved, comprising: Wardrobe with 2 bevelled plate glass doors; Dressing Chest with landscape Mirror and side reflectors, marble top and back Washstand and 2 Cane Seat Chairs.

£9 : 19 : 6

OUR GENERAL TERMS ARE:

Worth.	Per month.	Worth.	Per month.
£10 -	6 0	£200 -	4 10 0
20 -	11 0	500 -	11 5 0
50 -	1 8 0	1,000 -	22 10 0
100 -	2 5 0	2,000 -	45 0 0

Any amount pro rata, or by other proportionate payments if desired.

Country Customers

will find a great advantage in dealing with the MIDLAND FURNISHING COMPANY as their fares to town are paid on all orders of £30 and upwards, and Country Orders are packed free and carriage paid.

Carpets and Linos planned and laid free.

Anything we sell may be purchased on our well-known **GRADUAL PAYMENT SYSTEM,** with no extra charge or added interest whatsoever. We extend the payments over one, two, or three years without adding any interest, and we ask for no deposit. We allow 5 per cent. discount for cash.

THE MIDLAND FURNISHING CO., Ltd.,

15-23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Business Hours 9—8. Saturdays 9—6. Thursdays we do NOT close early.

THE HURLY BURLY.

By Theodore Daible.

FRIGID UNVERACITY IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

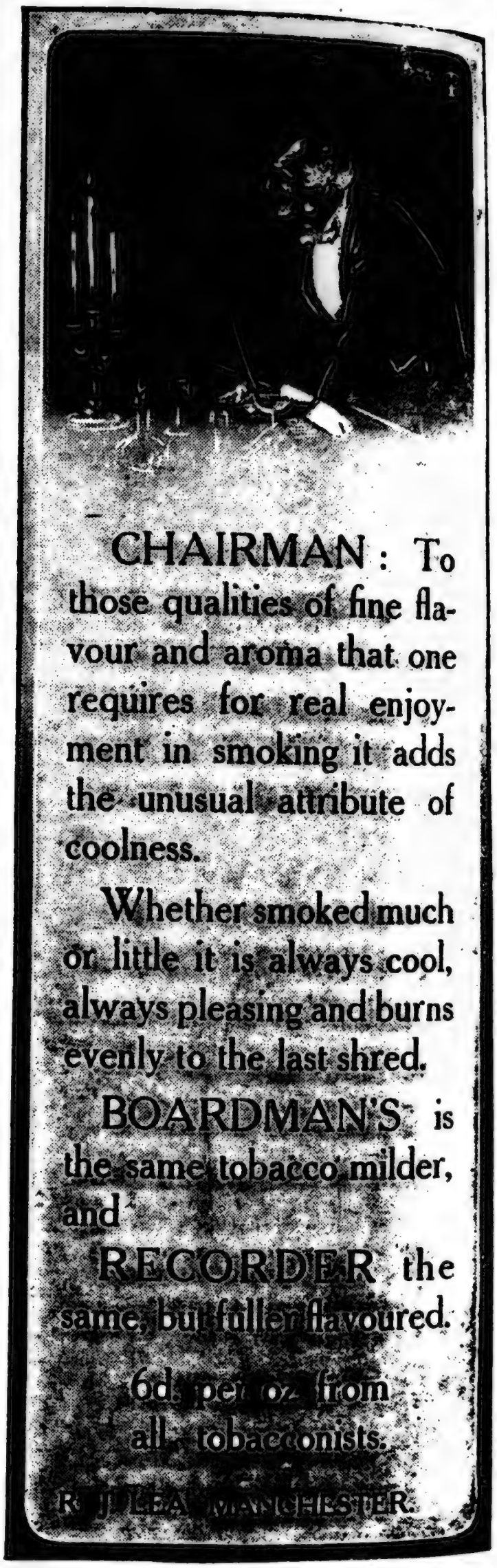
Amid the political and fiscal arguments and opinions which have been clashing and whirling about us all these last few months, it is not a matter for wonder that the Man in the Street becomes more and more bewildered as the time draws nearer to the day when he will be called to exercise his citizen's duty at the ballot box. So many fibs, lies, and statistics are current in print and speech that he is puzzled to find the truth. Only the other day, I heard a hot argument in a railway train. One man was a Tariff Reformer, or at any rate he was in favour of Tariff Reform, the other was a Free Trader, and both were apparently well posted in the "terminology" of an abstruse problem which I sometimes think can have neither head nor tail, beginning, middle, or end. They went at it hammer and tongs. They grew red in the face, hoarse in the voice, and wild in the eyes. They conjured newspaper cuttings from every pocket. They quoted speeches and figures against each other. If one of them assumed an air of triumph on his illustration from Jerusalem putty, the other would work him round to Australian rabbits and down him till he rose with a smile on German sausage, and assumed an aggressive air on American tinplates. This upping and downing had gone on through several railway stations in a compartment full of excitement and tobacco smoke. But presently one of the listeners interposed. "Look 'ere," he said, "I know both o' you. One o' you stumps for the Tariff Reform League and the other spouts for the Budget League, an' if either o' you's speakin' the truth, d——d if I can tell which." Then, pulling open the door, he vanished across the platform.

I could understand his difficulty, and silently sympathised with it. In the whole compass of the finite world nothing is so elusive as Truth, and I judge that Truth, if knowable to any or all of one's five senses, is as complicated as a thousand-guinea motor-car.

Yet there is a thrill of sportsmanship in the search for Truth which I have never experienced in trying to find a winner. A few mornings since, for instance, a tariff "reforming" paper announced that so few people are unemployed in protected Germany that Berlin could not find men enough to shovel away the snow. The next morning a Free Trade contemporary announced that it had inquired on the spot about this, had discovered that 40,000 unemployed were certified on the books of the Berlin trade unions alone, and the reason that none of them would shovel snow was that they get more money from their unions for being out of work.

I have before me now a whole cartload—pardon me, I have become so demoralised by the example of great statesmen, unparalleled statisticians, and stupendous rhetoricians that I have to be careful lest I start telling 'em myself—I mean I have a whole pile of political tracts and leaflets and Blue-books by Liberals, Tories, Independents, and Socialists now before me, and I undertake that there is not one single statement in any of them which is not proved to be a thumper by any one of the others. At this moment I don't know whether we are having a "political crisis" or a "civil war," or a "constitutional revolution," or a "fiscal chaos," or a gigantic bluff, or merely a new game of catch-as-catch-can—for all the great authorities differ about it. Lord Loreburn, the Liberal Lord Chancellor, says the action of the Lords in rejecting the Budget is utterly unconstitutional, while Lord Halsbury, who took £10,000 a year for seventeen years as Lord Chancellor and also looked well after most of his relations, says that the action of the Lords is perfectly constitutional, and he would not feel at home among them as friend and brother if they didn't do their duty by their country and their King.

Whatever I read, wherever I turn with the object of finding the truth, I am baffled. The paid spouter at one street corner tells me one thing, and at the next street corner another paid spouter conclusively proves from unassailable statistics that there is no truth in same. The parks and the open spaces are shrill, and hoarse, and vociferous with ten thousand proofs of propositions mutually destructive. I will hear no more. I will read no more. I will trouble about truth no more. I have made up my mind to vote for the party which according to my experience is telling the least number of lies.


CHAIRMAN: To those qualities of fine flavour and aroma that one requires for real enjoyment in smoking it adds the unusual attribute of coolness.
Whether smoked much or little it is always cool, always pleasing and burns evenly to the last shred.
BOARDMAN'S is the same tobacco milder, and
RECORDER the same, but fuller flavoured.
6d. per oz. from all tobacconists.
MANCHESTER.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By WALTER MOORE.

XXVII.—MR. JOHN BURNS.

Disguised as a working engineer, I recently sought an interview with Mr. John Burns at his Battersea home. It was well after midnight when I called, but the House had sat late, devouring members' health in some futile discussion, and a light still shone from Mr. Burns's study window.

I was answered by Mr. Burns in person, who, having scanned me with keen swiftness as I stood in the feeble light of the lowered hall lamp, requested me to step inside, closed the door, and invited me to follow his sturdy figure to his "den."

I followed the President of the Local Government Board into a room lined with books from floor to ceiling. Upon a desk lay the Shakespeare folio for which Mr. Burns is reputed to have paid £1,000 not long ago. He had evidently been poring over it when I knocked.

"Now," said Mr. Burns sharply, turning squarely towards me; "what's your little game? Out with it!"

"M—my little game?" I stammered, taken aback for the moment.

"Exactly," said Mr. Burns; "what's your little game? You don't come the old soldier with me, you know. *You're* no working engineer; so what's your game, eh?"

"You seem to have penetrated my disguise," I laughed, accepting the inevitable; "but you may lull your suspicions to rest. I have no criminal intent. I am merely a journalist in search of 'copy.'"

"I don't like disguise," commented Mr. Burns sternly.

"I'm not enamoured of it myself," I returned; but permit me to observe that you yourself have made a point of disguising your sentiments with regard to the defunct Budget."

"You are mistaken," replied Mr. Burns; "the Budget was none of my business. I had my work to do, and plenty of it. I am a conscientious man, although I say it myself. I draw £2,000 a year from the public purse. I should not feel that I had earned my pay had I have neglected my department and gone up and down the country advocating and explaining a measure which nobody, not even Lloyd George himself, understands."

"I admire your feeling in the matter," I responded; "but I understand that the Cabinet are unanimous in its support, and seeing that you are a member of the Cabinet, may I take it that you do not differ from the opinion of your colleagues?"

"I don't see why my attitude towards the Budget should be discussed," returned Mr. Burns, commencing to turn over the leaves of his precious Shakespeare folio. "What do you think of my famous purchase?"

"You must pardon me if I am persistent," I proceeded firmly; "at any other time I shall be pleased to discuss bibliology with you."

"Well, I decline to discuss the Budget, and that's an end," was Mr. Burns's reply; "any subject but that."

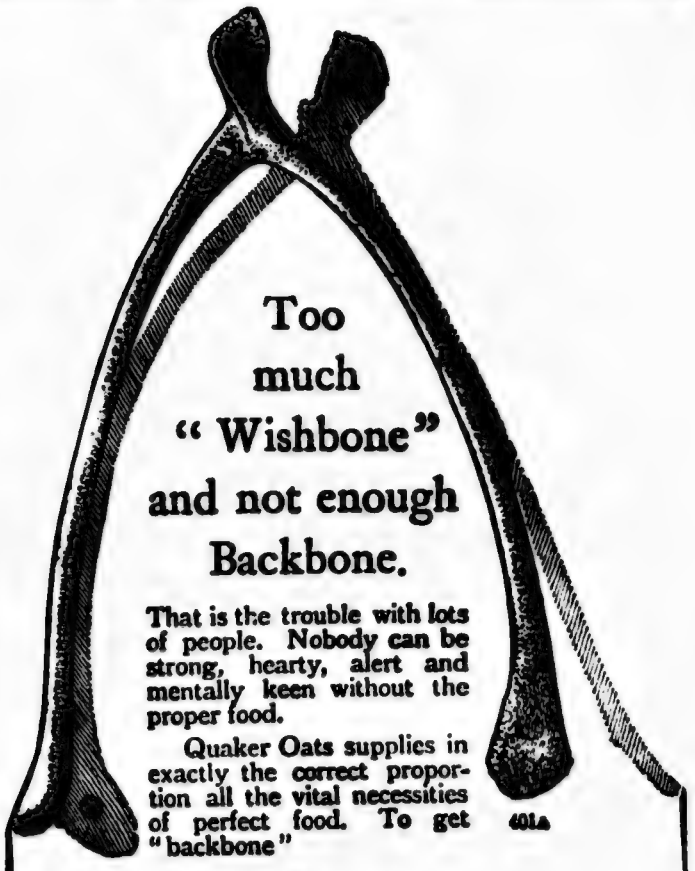
"I have heard it said," I resumed, "that in the event of the Conservative party being returned to power at the General Election, you would not refuse to accept office. Is that so?"

"You cannot expect me to answer such a question," replied Mr. Burns; "but this much I will say—I am a man who will always be prepared to set the interests of his country before the interests of his party."

"That is the sentiment of a sound patriot and a man of common sense," I cried. "If you remain true to that principle I can see you occupying a still more exalted position in days to come. Meanwhile, what do you say to the Chairmanship of the new Port of London Authority?"

Mr. Burns flushed with manly modesty. "Come, come," he said, "we have talked enough about myself. You must either talk Shakespeare now, or you must go."

I went.



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THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, ESQ., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

Readers desirous of joining the League must fill up the subjoined form and forward same to the Secretary, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

GREAT MASS MEETING AT CARDIFF.

On Thursday last over 3,000 Cardiffians assembled at the Park Hall to hear the President's address. Every nook of the hall was packed with eager listeners, many standing.

Upon the platform were many well-known members of the City Council, shippers, colliery proprietors, and other leading citizens, and long before the advertised time of commencement the doors of the hall had to be closed—several thousands of people being unable to obtain admission.

After explaining the general objects of the League—in the course of doing which he was frequently interrupted by loud and continued applause—the President proceeded to apply its principles to various matters of local interest.

Illustrating the need of business methods in municipal affairs, reference was made to the case of the Cardiff City Hall, the cost of which had exceeded by £40,000 the original estimate—the members of the Council candidly admitting that they "were not business men." He also referred to the recent incident in which, upon the outbreak of fire at Barry, it was found that the local brigade had disposed of its engines, the site of the station now being appropriately utilised as a home for imbeciles—a hint which was received with uproarious laughter. A passing reference was also made to the Barry Voluntary Hospital, which has been so fully exposed in the columns of JOHN BULL.

Mr. Bottomley also dealt at length with the effects of Sunday closing and other restrictive legislation as applied to Wales. He challenged anyone present to say that such legislation had had any really beneficial results. Why, for instance, did the citizens of Cardiff evince such a remarkable desire to pay a visit to Penarth on Sundays? Surely they had enough of ships on week-days without journeying just over three miles on the Sabbath to have another look at them? (Loud laughter.) And why upon Sundays were they so unpatriotic as to suddenly evince a burning desire to cross the border and get into English territory? (Renewed laughter.) No Act of Parliament could alter the social habits of the people, and if they really believed in sabbatarianism, they should be honest and refuse to sanction any and every kind of Sunday work.

The professional politician and the enterprising lawyer were the natural outcome of our present party system, and until they had been superseded by level-headed men of business capacity and experience, the United Kingdom would continue to lag behind in the commercial struggle of the world. (Hear, hear.)

In concluding his address, the President observed that we were perhaps upon the eve of one of those great crises which had marked the birth of almost every new century, and he appealed to his hearers to unite in a firm determination to assert their manhood, and not to continue to look for everything to "the State." (Loud and continued cheers.)

After the meeting over a hundred new members of the League were enrolled, the League badges and copies of JOHN BULL being everywhere in evidence.

THE LOCAL PRESS ON THE MEETING.

The *Western Mail* heads its report of the proceedings, "League to Fight Cant," and, after referring to the crowded meeting, mentions that "among those who occupied seats on the platform were a few City Councillors and a large number of prominent citizens," and says "Mr. Bottomley was enthusiastically received."

The *South Wales Daily News*, under the heading "Strong Criticisms of Religious and Political Institutions," says:—"The Park Hall was crowded with an audience that listened with close attention and with repeatedly marked appreciation while Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., explained the objects of the League. A large number could only find standing room, and many were shut out. . . . Mr. Bottomley was enthusiastically received."

Manchester Meeting.

The Free Trade Hall has been booked for Friday, December 3rd, when the President will deliver an address. Full particulars appear on the first page of this week's issue. The Organising Secretary (Mr. J. W. Ward) is at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, where he will be pleased to meet members willing to assist.

Birmingham Meeting.

The Town Hall has been booked for Friday, December 10th, when the President will attend. It was found impracticable to arrange for the Bingley Hall. The Organising Secretary (Mr. J. W. Ward) will be at the Queen's Hotel, at the beginning of next week, and will remain till after the meeting. He will be glad to meet members willing to assist, and tickets for reserved seats can be obtained on application to him.

SOME BRANCH REPORTS.

BOURNEMOUTH.—The League is "going" here like wildfire. It was quoted at a Suffragist meeting last week as an example of how quickly a movement of progress can catch on if run on business lines. Bournemouth will give the President a rousing reception.

BROMLEY.—Much interest is now being shown. The *Bromley Chronicle* mentions that a Local Branch of the League is in process of formation. The *Local Guide and Advertiser*, in a half-column report, says: "In the course of his speech, Mr. Bottomley made a slashing attack on the many sinecures and professions which have sprung up under the cloak of religion and upon the method of voting in the Houses of Parliament under our present Party system."

GLASGOW.—Since the President's visit, the League badge has become much more prominent. A social club for League members is in process of formation, and a general meeting will shortly be held to arrange preliminaries. All information can be obtained from Mr. W. Ramsay, 997, Govan Road, Govan.

MANCHESTER.—Our local correspondent says:—It is a pleasure indeed to read of the great success attending the League meeting held in Glasgow, and to notice the enthusiasm with which the President was received. I see the Manchester meeting is fixed for December 3rd; it will be a big thing, and will run neck and neck with Glasgow, if it does not succeed in beating that City's record, so that we can look forward—and this is being done eagerly—to a gratifying success, whilst the President himself can make sure of as sincere a reception as was given him in the Scotch metropolis. The cry is: "Good luck to the League."

NOTTINGHAM.—A most successful meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the League has been held in the Market Place, over two thousand people being present—all in hearty sympathy with our objects.

PLYMOUTH.—League going along fine. Membership increasing rapidly. Anticipating a meeting here some time during the winter, which would add greatly to the interest taken in the League in this town, and which would increase the membership by thousands. All Bullites are doing their utmost to introduce new members. The League's badges are greatly in evidence here. The papers give their candid opinion of the League, and think it a good thing.

Good reports also reach us from Chatham, Clapton, Walsall, Kennington, Hull, Aintree, Penarth, Glamorgan, Walthamstow, Leicester, Anerley, Scarborough, Shepherd's Bush, Bridlington, Dover, Deal, Ipswich, Penzance, Merthyr, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Sutton, Wigan, Brondesbury and Willesden, Portobello, Sunderland, etc.

MANCHESTER MEETING.

The production of this Copy of "John Bull" will admit to the above Meeting.

Any Member of the League producing his Badge will be admitted to a Reserved Seat.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

—:o:—

Please enrol me as a Member of the JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

ANOTHER MARTYRDOM!

(During the Lords' Budget Debate, Lord Rosebery, while condemning the Bill, said there would be an outcry in the country if the Budget was killed before being given a fair trial. The Archbishop of Canterbury said he would not vote, but simply stand aside.)

ROSEBERY: "I say, Lansdowne, there'll be a public outcry against this business! The fellow may be guilty, but he should have been tried before being executed."
LANSDOWNE (the Executioner): "Oh, that's all right. We've promised him a full public enquiry into the circumstances of his death."

THE SALVATION ARMY AND EMIGRATION FUNDS.

A POINT REQUIRING EXPLANATION.

Mr. James Chatten, of East Ham, has called upon us with reference to a claim made upon him by the Salvation Army. In the early part of 1905 our contemporary, the *Daily Telegraph*, started a fund for sending out to Canada a number of families, doing so through the Salvation Army. Chatten and his family were of the number. Chatten left England on January 21st, 1905, and immediately before starting he received a letter from Colonel Lamb, of the Salvation Army, dated January 21st, the first paragraph of which runs as follows :—

> The repayment of the sum of £15, advanced to you (part of your passage money to Canada), should be made by fifteen payments of £1 each. The first payment to be made on June 1st, 1905, to Commissioner Coombs, James and Albert Street, Toronto.

And he was asked to sign the ordinary form, which made him indebted to the Salvation Army to the extent of £15. He did so, although wondering at the time how he could be indebted to the Salvation Army for a passage paid for by the *Daily Telegraph*. As, however, he had sold up his furniture, and was afraid that protest might stop his passage, he signed and said nothing. Soon after, however, he wrote to Mr. J. H. Richardson, the Manager of the *Daily Telegraph* Fund, asking why he had to repay this money, and this is the letter he received in reply from Mr. Richardson, dated from the *Daily Telegraph* Offices, April 25th, 1905 :—

> The Salvation Army never had authority to ask you to repay passage money, and you must not think of giving them a shilling. The whole cost was borne by this Fund and you are not in debt to it.

Immediately afterwards the Salvation Army returned Chatten the loan agreement cancelled. He has only just returned to this country from Canada, which accounts for his delay in seeking an explanation.

We should not have attached great importance to this matter if the transaction stood alone, since we should have assumed that the Salvation Army authorities had made the demand for repayment and required the signature of the document under misapprehension ; but Chatten informs us that he was only one of several who were sent out by the *Daily Telegraph* Fund from East Ham, and that all of the men he came in contact with told him that a similar demand had been made upon them, which he could not understand. In these circumstances we think some explanation is required from the Salvation Army authorities.

A BANK CLERK AGAIN.

A few days ago, William Lea, "a tall, gentlemanly young man," pleaded guilty of having, while employed in the branch office at Clydebank of the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., embezzled £5,993 4s. 2d. It appeared in evidence that Lea was only 22 years of age, and had led a blameless life, until, in an evil moment, he began to speculate on the Stock Exchange through outside brokers. He sent all the money he had, £2 or £3, to one of these firms, and, of course, lost it. He then borrowed a little money, sent it to them, and lost that too. He then took a small sum from the till, hoping that prices would improve and that he might put himself straight again. It is the old story, but we would point out that, according to the evidence, Lea had a salary of only £50 a year. And yet he had access to blank signed letters of advice, he opened the correspondence in the morning, and there could not have been any efficient check by a superior on his returns of the branch transactions at the head office, otherwise his simple method of signing his own name on bank drafts and cheques would have been discovered in a fortnight, whereas his embezzlement extended from February, 1907, to October, 1909. We are not defending his theft, but is it quite fair to young men to keep them in the midst of temptation and pay them a beggarly salary of £50 a year ?

OUR WEEKLY LIMERICK.

He swore 'twas Italian, Bode did,
Until, by authorities goaded,
He opened the Bust,
And found, with disgust,
With an old English quilt it was loaded !

"RETLAW."

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NEW NIGHT CURE FOR CATARRH AND NASAL INEFFICIENCY.

Discovered by Vocalist-Patient with the Aid of his Physician.

EXPLANATORY TREATISE NOW READY FOR GRATIS DISTRIBUTION.

Old-fashioned remedies for catarrh have been completely superseded by the remarkably successful new night cure for catarrh and other nose-breathing difficulties, which cures without the aid of nauseous liquids or powders—cures even while you are asleep.

The new cure for catarrh—the joint discovery of physician and patient—cures with every breath you draw. It frees the nasal passages; it arrests mouth breathing and promotes natural and healthy nasal breathing; it strengthens chest and lungs; it oxygenates and purifies the blood; and generally invigorates and re-vitalises the whole organic being.

Every sufferer from catarrh knows how this distressing complaint prevents proper breathing, and how if neglected other disagreeable conditions arise. The mucous matter falls down the throat—the word catarrh means "to flow down"—during the night, and the victim awakens in the morning with a foul mouth, coated tongue, nausea, and utter distaste for food.

The stomach becomes inflamed, and intestinal catarrh—a most dangerous disease—may ensue with fatal results.

The hearing becomes impaired, the head feels hot, and the eyes are either dry and burning or discharge an acrid watery fluid. The senses of smell and taste also become seriously affected.

Hitherto, the most drastic methods of relief have often been found necessary. In the new all-night cure no operations or cauterising are necessary. On the other hand, the patient goes to sleep at night and awakes in the morning deliciously refreshed owing to the improvement in the breathing while asleep, due to the increase of nasal breathing space supplied by this new and natural method of treatment.

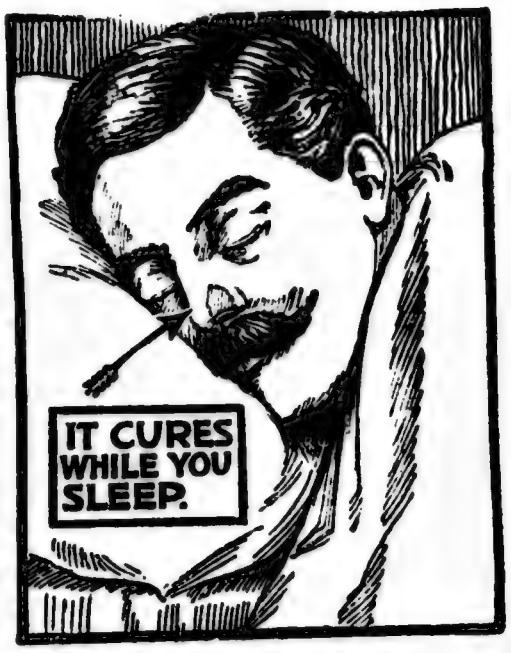
In an interesting book which the joint discoverers of this new treatment have published for gratis circulation among sufferers from catarrh, adenoids, polypi, catarrhal deafness, and other nose-breathing troubles, this new all night cure is fully described, the letterpress being accompanied by informative and explanatory diagrams never before published to the public.

Subjoined is a synopsis of the contents:

How the Cure was Discovered.
Why Snuffs and Sprays can Do No Good.
The Most Neglected Part of the Body.
Special Advice and Warning.
Illustration of an Operation for Removal of Post-Nasal Growth.
A Most Remarkable Test. (Illus.)
What is Catarrh?
Illustrations of Examples of Nasal Obstruction and Inefficiency.
What Catarrh Leads To.
The Physiological Process of Cure.
Illustration of Why Sprays Cannot Cure Catarrh.
How to Cure Catarrh and NOSE-BREATHING DIFFICULTIES.
The NOSE and Catarrh.
The EARS and Catarrh.
The THROAT and Catarrh.
The MOUTH and Catarrh.
The LUNGS and Catarrh.
How to Cure SNORING.
COLDS in the HEAD and EYES.
VOICE Troubles.

This book is very aptly entitled "Respiratory Re-Education," and the joint authors here clearly show how *all* consumptive, catarrhal, and asthmatic tendencies are originally due to nasal-breathing inefficiency, a theory, strange to say, that received professional endorsement at the last British Medical Conference at Belfast.

It is a well-established fact that large, wide nostrils are indicative of health and long life, provided, of course, there is no internal obstruction as in catarrh, adenoids, polypi, &c. The new cure for catarrhal affections (as explained in the book mentioned) is based upon the recognised physiological fact. It overcomes nasal inefficiency, whether due to narrow or congested nostrils. It re-opens and expands the partly-closed air passages and cavities, and thus prepares the way for the larger supply of air absolutely necessary to catarrhal freedom. Moreover, in the new Rhycol cure, the air inhaled during the hours of sleep is medicated with a soothing and healing preparation that assuages the inflamed mucous membrane, and gradually cures it. (How this is accomplished is one of the most interesting sections of the book now offered for gratis circulation.)



There is no fuss or bother with the New Cure for Catarrh and Nose-Breathing Difficulties, Weak Chest and Lungs, Asthmatical and Bronchial Tendencies. The Cure remains in operation during the whole of the night, and no conscious effort is called for.

The original discovery was made by the patient—a vocalist—who discovered HOW the nose could be freed Upon this first step discovery has been built the new and anatomical cure described in detail (and illustrated) in the book entitled "Respiratory Re-Education." Immediately the method of cure described in this book is applied there is striking evidence of its curative powers. It is, indeed, as one patient put it, *like coming into the fresh air out of a close and stuffy room.*

In one night the nose, ears, tongue, and throat give every evidence of the good work of the cure.

In one week the nose and mouth cease to discharge catarrhal matter. The brain, eyes, and ears feel clear and unobstructed, the mouth and throat clear and sweet, and taste and smell become as keen as ever.

As already stated, a large edition of the book has been published for free distribution, and all who wish to overcome nasal inefficiency—the cause of catarrh, adenoids, polypi, catarrhal deafness, and consumptive and asthmatic tendencies—should send (or call) for a copy.

You have only to write (enclosing a 1d. stamp for postage) or call, to receive a gratis copy of the authors' book per return post. Write to The Publishers, "Respiratory Re-Education," 37 Rhycol House, 130, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

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36 (in all).

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JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Cheap and Useful.

This winter Fashion really is going to be kind to the busy girl or woman who, either as club secretary, journalist, or any other "up to town" employment, has to face the deep problem of looking nice in useful, good-wear sort of clothes. For she has not only permitted, but is rather urging, three invaluable garments for that purpose—the Russian coat and skirt, the jersey, and the big, soft "fitting-on" toque. Now any busy person equipped with those things could succeed in looking smart and pretty in all weathers without coming to pieces, besides procuring them very cheaply. If there is an easy garment to make at home it is the Russian coat, for obvious reasons: it has straight fronts without breast darts, and an only semi-fitting back, all secured and made neat by a belt. Its sole trimming is either bands of narrow fur or flat braiding and soutache. Only this year no one must forget that it will be worn very slim and tight and straight down in effect, with a very close-fitting basque to the knees, and a very narrow short skirt. In velveteen or dark art serge it could be made very cheaply at home, and worn with a toque of the same, also fur-trimmed. For indoors, under the coat, a hockey jersey in the same shade would make an excellent work-a-day suit of the whole, especially if the latter had hand-worked cloth collar and cuffs to give it distinction.

Facial Changes.

It is curiously interesting in an age like this, when we constantly revert to the fads and fashions of bygone periods in clothes and hairdressing, to note the utter blindness of the average woman to one thing—and that is whether her dress and her expression go together. For they simply must. If they don't, failure of a rather stupid kind is the inevitable result. As a rule this is one of the points on which a Frenchwoman scores. She seems to grasp her facial chances by instinct. It always seems to me so funny, for instance, that women with worried eyes—and to-day the most up-to-date smart women have worried expressions—should dream of doing their hair after the fashion of the placid ladies of the Winterhalter portraits. Or why do people with fussy, quick, eager manners and turned-up noses ever dream of going in for Saxon hairdressing and little pearl-embroidered caps for evening wear? The result is only that nameless "something wrong" which spells all failure. It would be a wonderful thing if we all had the gift of actually discovering our own style, and having done so, of keeping to it, instead of going in for a thousand different ones, and more or less failing in all. I know women who do, in their heart of hearts, know their own style, but having become enamoured of another, persist in trying to imitate it, with sad results. I know a classical girl who is always trying to be babyish, and wearing Toby frills and what not; and a stout and stately woman who persists in being playful and girlish. Alas!

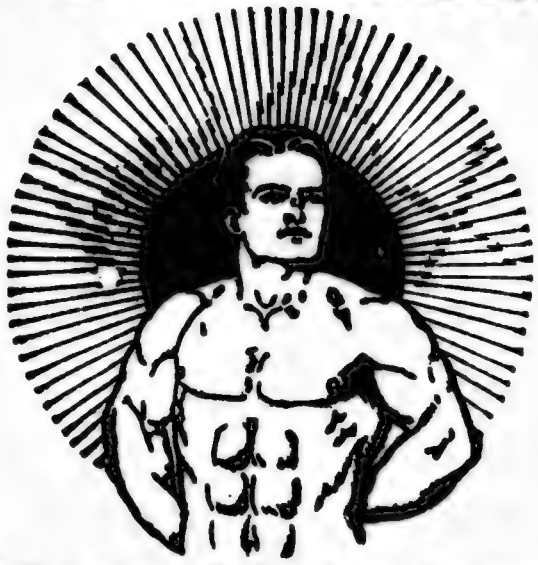
Fashions in Men.

How soon we change, even in this matter. Only the other day every magazine story, most novels, and many plays unquestioningly put forth the ideal hero as a strong, keen-faced, strenuous person, usually described as "virile" and always clean-shaven. He was always powerfully independent and capable of forcing fate in some way or another. But slowly a change has come about: he is now still described as looking strong, but he is turning into that most deadly of beings—a man whose glories and dignities are inherited, and outside his own volition. He is slowly becoming a lord in disguise, or the heir to a millionaire, or the son of somebody great, and already I see upon him the shadow of that moustache which is the outward sign of these inanities. In vain his creators tell you he has a strong chin and dominant will. What are the use of those when he hasn't any worlds to conquer? They will gradually die down or that moustache will over-shadow them, and then we shall have the dear old tailor's block darling of the old sensational novels back in our midst again.

Crowning Mamma.

Somebody suggests that we should introduce into English customs a rather pretty idea recently adopted at a smart Viennese wedding, that of crowning the mother of the bride with a half-wreath of pink roses with silvered twigs and leaves nominally to distinguish her as hostess in a big wedding crowd. But in an age and country when the bride's mother is usually prettier—and rather younger—than herself this innovation has its dangers. I think most of us could reckon up quite a list of those lovely and brilliant mammas if we tried, and most of us could appreciate the feelings of the little half-hour-old wife who has to stand by in her stiff finery and see a crowned goddess receiving the guests, who, after all, only came to see *her* married. Really in England mamma has quite a good enough time as it is! She need not be asked to poach at weddings. The truth is that many of the most modern of modern Englishwomen, preferably of the cultured classes, actually do not attain to their full meed of beauty till they are almost old enough to appear at a bridal in the mother-in-law capacity. The moral is that rebellious daughters should themselves wait till they are nearer that goddess age before marrying! That would square things.

'I'M STRONG ONCE MORE'



"I was once weak, thin, emaciated, puny, and colourless. Would you ever believe that I am the same man who came into your office three months ago? Look at me. See how well my muscles are developed. I have strength, vitality, energy, vim, and vigour. That 'AJAX' DRY-CELL BATTERY is a wonder. There is nothing it can't put 'steam' and life into one.'

Such are the enthusiastic expressions of an "Ajax" patient.

That's what it does. It makes men out of the weakest specimens, big, robust, manly men, the kind that are admired and honoured. Wouldn't you rather be such a man and have people point to you and say, "Isn't he a fine chap?" than to be a weakling who is trodden upon and despised? You can be if you will let us pour a stream of electric life into your weakened nerve centres while you rest.

The "AJAX" BATTERY is a dry-cell electric generator. It is always charged, always ready for use. You do not have to be bothered with any acid or other substances in charging it. It gives out its current whenever it is applied to the body. It is endorsed by the highest authorities as the only genuine electric body battery ever invented. The well-known expert, W. Lascelles Scott, Esq., after an exhaustive test, says: "The results have been eminently satisfactory throughout, and, indeed, greatly beyond my initial expectations." This Battery secured the Grand Prix and Gold Medal at the International Exhibition.

No Other Proof Equals Results

"I have left the battery off for three months, and have not had a return of my rheumatism, although we have had some very trying weather."—Mr. W. T. Williams, 128, Southgate St., Bury St. Edmunds.

"My nervousness has disappeared, and I feel twenty years younger. I have gained four pounds in weight in five weeks." Mr. John Edwards, Sunny View, Persian Road, Skewen, near Neath.

"The battery has quite cured my back, as I have not had a sore back since."—Mr. D. O'Sullivan, 28, Thornwood Avenue, Partick, N.B.

"I am keeping well and free from pain, never better in health than at present. I can truly say that it is the electric battery that has saved me from being a complete cripple. I am now strong and robust for my 78 years of age."—Mr. William Skitch, Hemiksmoor, Crown Hill, S.E.S., Devon.

A Free Book telling all about the electric cure is sent free upon application. It is entitled "Electricity—the Road to Health." It is a volume of 80 pages, which is brimful of the things the true lover of health likes to read. It is well worth two guineas to any sufferer, yet it does not even cost you a penny stamp. Please ask us to send to it you at once. We will give you the names and addresses of hundreds of "AJAX" men—the men who have been cured. We have a book for women also. Call at the office for a free test, if you can, or write at once.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC INSTITUTE

(Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

£5,000 WAITING TO BE CLAIMED THIS WEEK

WE, IVAN MOLLVO & CO., of 49, Old Bond Street, London, W., have made out several hundred cheques in the names of residents in England and Wales representing an aggregate value of £5,000.

These cheques, to the best of our belief, have not been assigned to anyone connected directly or remotely with our firm, nor to any personal friends of any of its members or staff. These 738 cheques, the number of which and the names of the payees thereon having been verified by a NOTARY PUBLIC, have been deposited under his notarial seal with the National Safe Deposit Co. The sealed envelope will after Dec. 7th, be opened in his presence, when he will give a certificate as to the names upon the cheques. This certificate can be seen upon application being made in writing to us.

Let us assume that YOUR name has been chosen. Then the money is waiting for you; there is already a cheque made out in your name, Nobody else can touch it; it is your money; YOU ONLY HAVE TO CLAIM IT. If you do not, the money reverts to us, but it is YOUR MONEY NOW. To receive the cheque you must have bought direct from us a box of 100 Mollvo "No. 36" Selected Turkish Cigarettes (using Coupon below) before the announcement of the names upon the cheques in "The Times" a few days from now. These Cigarettes are blended from the Finest Turkish and Oriental Tobaccos obtainable, and cost but 7/6 per 100. You will thus see that, practically speaking, you can make good your claim to the cheque without any cost to yourself, because, if you are a smoker, you must purchase some cigarettes, so why not Mollvo's which will enable you to claim the cheque that is waiting for you?

THE WAITING CHEQUES.

2 of	£1,000	=	£2,000.
1 of	£500	=	£500.
5 of	£100	=	£500.
10 of	£50	=	£500.
20 of	£20	=	£400.
100 of	£5	=	£500.
600 of	£1	=	£600.
738			**£5,000**

Total 738 Cheques value £5,000.

The Names of those to whom the Cheques have been allotted will appear in "The Times" shortly after December 7th.

CONDITIONS.

(1) The cheques are given in consideration of services to be rendered to us by the recipients. If your name is chosen, this presupposes that we think you would be able to help the sale of our cigarettes. It practically amounts to this, that we should pay you, so to speak, a salary instead of spending the money in travellers and advertising. For every £5, or fraction thereof, you may receive you will agree to do your best for one week to increase the sale of our cigarettes by recommending them to your friends. We do not, however, ask you to communicate with us or forward us reports; on the contrary we leave the matter to your own judgment, honour, and initiative.

(2) Any person to whose order one of these cheques has been made out, must, to obtain his cheque, fill up and sign the coupon below and post it so that it reaches us before midday, December 7th. No money will be paid to anyone whose coupon and Postal Order is received after that hour or who does not comply with and agree to be bound by these conditions.

(3) We shall make every effort to forward all Cigarettes by return of post, but we cannot accept responsibility for any delay on the part of the Postal Authorities or from any other cause. We cannot be responsible for any letter lost in the post.

(4) All Postal Orders or cheques sent with the coupon will be accepted as in payment for cigarettes, and no money will be returned whether the sender is entitled to a Cheque or not. No coupon will be accepted that does not reach us through the post.

TAKE YOUR PEN NOW. Just by signing the Coupon below you may, practically speaking, be endorsing a big Cheque made out to yourself. But unless you sign it NOW you may be losing the chance of whatering abroad, the opportunity of buying that House or Business you have your eye upon, or that Motor Car which you cannot afford at present.

A BIT OF ADVICE.

No man, no woman in England can be sure that his or her name is not down on a cheque for £1,000. If he is not sure that it is not, he should make quite sure if it is; and it is so simple to make good the claim—just a question of smoking Mollvo Cigarettes this week instead of something else, probably not so good.

If you do not apply, and the money is waiting in your name, do not blame us if we are obliged to send you a cancelled cheque.

A FEW INSTANCES.

There is a £50 cheque waiting for a resident in ——— Terrace, Hyde Park, and a £100 cheque for a resident in Croydon. There are also two cheques of £20 each for residents in Queen Anne's Mansions, London, S.W., and another cheque for a gentleman whose telephone number ends in 00 Gerrard. In Grange View, Leeds, there is a further cheque; the number of the house is a multiple of 3. These persons have only to make their claim on the coupon below, and the cheques will be duly forwarded.

If you are not one of the persons indicated above, do not be discouraged; there are 733 other cheques waiting to be claimed.

THE

MOLLVO

CIGARETTES,

49, Old Bond Street,

LONDON, W.

Coupon.

(Only available if received by MOLLVO & Co. before Mid-day, Tuesday, December, 7th, 1909.

To IVAN MOLLVO & Co., 49, Old Bond Street, London, W.

Date.....

P.O. No. .....

Please send me one Mollvo "No. 36" Selected Turkish Cigarettes, for which I enclose cheque or Postal Order for 7s. 6d. It is understood that this purchase will make good my claim to any cheque which may be waiting for me. I agree to be bound by the conditions of the offer as expressed in the page from which this coupon is cut.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

[illegible] .....

.....

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

All holders in *John Bull, Ltd.*, of ten shares and upwards are entitled to an early copy of "Verax's" City article.

A General Improvement—Kaffirs Lead the Rise—West Africans Strong—Bargains for Investors—Position of Home Rails—Argentine Rails and Russians.

A satisfactory change has come over the Stock Markets, as the last settlement has clearly demonstrated that a "Bear" account has taken the place of the former excessive "Bull" commitments. Monetary developments, moreover, were propitious, inasmuch as more gold came to hand to reinforce the Bank of England, raising the Bank Reserve to 26½ millions sterling. Brazil and Egypt, moreover, have completed their gold withdrawals, and although there may still be some designs on our gold on the part of Argentina and India, the probability is that the greater portion will not be taken until the year is turned. I do not anticipate any difficulty in connection with the Government needs arising from the reference of the Budget to the nation, as the necessary borrowing at short date is easy enough. I also anticipate a strong revival on the Stock Exchange in January, whatever be the result of the general election, and already the markets are shaping that way. It is a matter of satisfaction to me that I advised readers of John Bull very successfully as regards the purchase of *Kaffir* shares during the period of severe depression caused by forced liquidation. Many investors have, as I gather from their communications, laid in bargains on that occasion, especially in the case of high-class dividend paying shares, in which they already stand at a considerable profit, whilst having shares yielding a return of from 10 per cent. upwards. Similarly sound mines working up to dividend point can still be bought into at very low prices, which in six months' time will have grown into money. Bargains can, of course, also be got in *Rhodesians*, but, as I am explaining further on, *West Africans* will probably carry off the palm owing to the active work which is now proceeding in many leading mines with the assistance of some three millions sterling of additional capital which was put up at the commencement of the current year. Some of the promising or depreciated mining shares in other sections should also come into notice again. The position of *Home Rails* has been repeatedly explained by me in recent issues with the help of yield tables of ordinary, preferred ordinary, and preference stocks. From the investor's point of view they deserve attention on the January dividend prospects, but it must depend upon the issue of the elections whether any substantial rise is possible. It is different with *Argentine Rails*, in which a speculative outburst is almost certain owing to the favourable crop reports, the depreciated *Buenos Ayres and Pacific stock* having already recovered 3 points to 90½. Other leading stocks are following more slowly, but the *United of Havana* are up a couple of points, also on improved reports, and as I anticipated *Guayaquil and Quito Bonds* are up a couple of points on the certainty that the Government of Ecuador will pay the January coupon. I look for a further rise. Amongst Foreign Governments stocks *Brazilians* and *Russians* are on the up grade, and *Japanese Fours* are still deservedly in favour of investors. As regards Russians, I look for a rise in the four per cents. of 5 to 6 points so as to facilitate the conversion of the five per cents. which the Russian Government proposes to undertake next year.

The Copper Merger in Danger—Yankee Depression.

The Wall Street Market is passing through another phase of depression, and this time the *Copper* position is the cause. The Copper merger now being negotiated has been a source of strength for that market, and now that nervousness about the illegality of that scheme, as a result of the decision against the *Standard Oil Company*, is developing, the whole Wall Street Market turns weak. In any case, the *Calumet and Heckla* and the *Phelps-Dodge Mines* will not join, and even if the merger is carried out, there will be ever-recurring fits of weakness. *Amalgamated*, from 98, are down again to 88½, other shares following suit. *New York Central* have been put down on the new stock issue, and it is being realised that a good many more new issues will have to be made which Europe won't care to shoulder. This has produced a dull tone and lower prices for American Rails generally, even *Union Pacifics* losing their usual sprightliness, with *Steel Common* in the neighbourhood of 89½ again. As I anticipated, the *Rio Tinto Company* refuses to join the copper agreement. Upon the whole, it seems advisable to leave the Wall Street gambling counters alone a little longer, especially as with the meeting of Congress some more unpleasant surprises may be sprung upon the market.

A Coming Great Goldfield—West Africa—Great Houses as Sponsors.

So little has of late been heard of gold mining in West Africa that the pronouncement of Lord Harris at the recent Cons. Goldfields Meeting, that he expected West Africa to prove the greatest goldfield of the world, came almost as a surprise. Yet, it was well known that the *Goldfields Company*, ever since December last year, after eminent experts had made their reports, had engaged largely in the financial reorganisation of leading West African Mining Companies and that the example thus set was followed by Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. and A. Goerz and Co. Large sums have been provided as working capital and work is now proceeding on a large scale and under the most skilful management. Two groups are at present being developed, one the Tarkwa banket, the other the Prestea quartz reef, both having been proved for many miles. When first the participation of the South African houses was announced, prices of the shares rose sharply, but too much in advance of events. Much work had to be got through first, and it is curious how little news has reached London of late, considering that the dry season—the best for mining—is in full swing. In the meantime, prices of the shares, many of which were weakly and speculatively held, broke away until some fell below the "ground floor" values at which the big houses took their participations. I need but instance *Fanti Consols*, which dropped to 20s., although a leading firm's arrangement is to take over 225,000 shares at from 23s. to 25s. A recovery is now, however, in progress, and although the highest prices touched in the current year have not by any means been reached yet, prices are considerably above the lowest. This will be seen from the following comparative table of leading Jungle shares:—

	Share.	Highest, 1901-6.	Lowest, 1908-9.	Highest, 1909.	Present Price
Abbontiakoon	10s.	2 15-16	9s. 6d.	16s. 0d.	12s. 6d.
Abosso	£1	2	1½	3	2 9
Ashanti Goldfields	4s.	6½	4s. 6d.	2 11-16	2 1
Bibiani	16s. pd.	5½	3d.	19s.	7s.
Broomassie	£1	31s. 9d.	5s. 3d.	14s.	8s.
Cinnamon Bippo	£1	—	1½	3 1-16	2½
Effuenta	5s.	2½	5s. 3d.	1os.	7s.
Fanti Consolidated	10s.	5 3-16*	2s. 6d.	28s. 0d.	22s. 6d.
Fanti Mines	5s.	1 3-8	6d.	12s.	8s.
Gold Coast Amalgamated	£1	18s.	6s. 3d.	4½	4½
Himan Concessions	£1	2	1s.	17s.	11s. 6d.
Obuassi Syndicate	5s.	9½	6d.	14s.	4s. 6d.
Offin River	£1	2½	4s.	15s. 6d.	6s.
Prestea Block "A"	£1	1½	6s. 6d.	35s.	32s. 6d.
Prestea Mines	7s. 6d.	2	6d.	10s. 9d.	8s.
Wassau	10s.	9½*	8s.	14s.	10s.

* Since reconstructed.

The year 1908-9 marked the period of the greatest depression, following upon the boom years during which the market was worked more than the mines. But all this is past now. The mines have been reported upon by such eminent experts as Messrs. Broadbridge, J. H. Curle, F. B. Powell and Wilkinson, and are now being brought to a producing point on a large scale. Amongst the banket properties *Abosso* and *Tarquah Exploration* have already furnished proof of the value and permanence of their ore bodies. The *Prestea Block "A"*—on the Broomassie-Prestea Quartz range—has similarly acquitted itself and will, as soon as the extension of the Government Railway from Tarkwa to Prestea is completed (and this news may come any day), be worked for all it is worth. This railway will also benefit the neighbouring *Prestea Mines* and the *Anfargah, Himan Concessions* and *Broomassie* (the latter only just reconstructed). Everything points to our all at once receiving a great budget of glowing reports which will set the market ablaze. Prices are still low, and anyone buying and putting away such shares as *Prestea Block "A," Prestea Mines, Fanti Consols* (which own properties on both the Tarkwa and Prestea lines of reef), *Fanti Mines* (holding properties on the Tarkwa banket range) should have fine chances of big profits. *Prestea Mines*, also controlling the neighbouring *Anfargah*, have as large a property as *Prestea Block*, and are cheap, while *Gold Coast Amalgamated*, to which the *Goldfields Company* have appointed Mr. Fricker, a well-known Rand director, as chairman, is the chief holding and assets company of the Cons. Goldfields as far as West Africa is concerned. There are, of course, other mines and other shares, but for a first instalment the above will suffice.

Kaffirs Improving All Round, Dividend Payers Leading—Another Yield Table—Profits of Gold Mines on the Rand Ten Millions Sterling in Ten Months.

The end of November Settlement on the Stock Exchange has brought the persistent forced liquidation in Kaffir and

"Overwhelmed with Gold."—Next week.

Rhodesian Mines to an end, and I am glad to find that my anticipation of an important allround rise is already being borne out. But prices are still moderate, and I cannot do better, in view of the many inquiries I am receiving for suitable investments, than publish another Yield Table of leading dividend-paying *Witwatersrand Mines*:—

	Issued Capital.	Div. 1st Half 1909.	Est. Life Years.	Make-up Price, Aug. 9th, 1909.	Present Price.	Yield per Cent. (Ann. d)
	£	%				£ s. d.
Worker-Bull Group.						
Crown Mines (10s.) ..	931,506	(a)	50	—	8 1-16	8 7 6
Durban Roodepoort	125,000	30	10	2⅞	2⅞	14 11 0
Ferreira Deep	910,000	52½ (b)	13	6⅛	5⅝	9 0 6
Geldenhuis Deep ..	300,000	17½	20	4 1-16	3⅞	8 9 0
New Heriot	114,864	40	14	6⅛	6⅜	12 16 9
New Modderf. (£1)..	1,200,000	7½	35	11 5-16	11⅛	5 11 9
Nourse Mines	827,521	25 (b)	25	3⅛	3	8 6 3
Robinson Gd. (£5)	2,750,000	15	12	11⅛	10	14 17 3
Rose Deep	425,000	25	19	5	4 7-16	10 19 9
Rosherville Group.						
Langlaagte Estate ..	867,500	30 (b)	30	3⅛	2⅞	10 18 3
Rdt. South (c)	1,670,000	—	—	—	—	—
Andries h Group.						
New Kleinfontein ..	900,000	12½	30	2 11-16	2 7-16	10 5 3
Gilfillan Group.						
Knights Deep	643,526	20	11	3⅛	2 13-16	13 14 3
Sumner and Jack ..	3,000,000	10	15	2⅛	1⅞	10 12 0
Barnato Group.						
New Primrose	325,000	20	8	2⅞	2 7-16	16 18 3
New Rietfontein ..	610,084	10	40	1⅞	1 3-8	14 10 9
Witwaters. (Knights)	425,000	17½	10	4 5-16	3 13-16	8 15 3
Neumann Group.						
Witwaters. Deep ..	537,236	30	16	6	5½	11 13 3
Alex Group.						
Meyer and Charlton	200,000	25	14	3⅞	3⅝	14 16 3
Roodepoort United	460,000	10	30	3⅛	2 13-16	7 2 3
Van Ryn	500,000	22½	14	4⅝	4⅛	10 9 9

(a) 5 per cent. is estimated per annum for the first year or two.
(b) For whole year.
(c) Amalgamation of North, Porges, South, Robinson, and Stubbs Randfontein Companies.
† In this column no allowance is made for estimated length of life.

This table has been fully brought up to date and shows how splendid a return can be obtained—10 per cent. easily with a fair length of life of the mine. Nor should my readers forget that announcements of the dividends for the second half of 1909 will henceforth be frequently made and throughout December. Indeed, the shares are full of five-months' dividends. The profits of the mines of the Rand alone for the first ten months of 1909 total £9,902,705 as compared with £9,731,169 for the same period of 1908, and this, notwithstanding heavy floods and labour shortage this year. As regards a selection to be made from the above list, all the Mines have their good points, but I should feel inclined to fix upon *Durban Roodepoort* (which has just announced another quarterly dividend of 2s. per share and 3s. per share bonus), *Rose Deep*, *Langlaagte Estate*, *Randfontein South*, which will, in 1910, largely increase its already large profits, *Witwatersrand Deep*, *Meyer and Charlton* or *Van Ryn*. With regard to the *Geldenhuis Deep*, I may mentions that it is just venturing upon an amalgamation with the *Geldenhuis Estates* and the *Jumpers Deep* for the purpose of reducing working costs and increasing profits.

Large Kaffir Mining Properties Working up to the Dividend Stage—More Bargains.

While the renewed demand in the Kaffir Circus has in the first instance chiefly affected the dividend-paying mines, it is bound to extend also more and more to the large properties that are being developed and supplied with crushing plant, thus being almost in sight of dividends. All these shares have fallen heavily in price, despite their undoubted merits. If bought now and locked up for six months they will yield large profits. I mention in the first instance *Randfontein Central*, the large Robinson amalgamation, which will commence crushing next year, and will be one of the largest producers on the Rand, paying at least 30 per cent. dividend. These shares, which stood at 3⅛ six months ago, are now only to 2⅞. Similarly deserving and depreciated are following:—*City Deep* at 4¼, *Cinderella Deep* at 2 7-16, *West Rand Consols* at 25s. 6d., *Western Rand Estates* at ⅞, *Rand Collieries* at 1 7-16, and *Simmer Deep* at 20s. 6d. Then there are the large Far Eastern properties, proved and working. Attention is directed to them by the announcement that Messrs. Barnato and the Johnnies Investment Co. have by tender secured from the Transvaal Government the large mining areas on the farm *Modderfontein*, equal to about 3,000 claims, which will involve a capital outlay of at least £2,500,000. This should cause an improvement in the adjoining *Modder B* at 2 13-16, *Modder Deep* at 2 3-16, *Brakpan* at 2⅜, while other Far Eastern shares at present unduly depreciated are *Welgedacht* at 3, *Apex* at 4 5-16, and *Daggafontein Gold* at 13-16, *East Rand Mining Estates* at 1 3-16 and *New British Transvaal* at 4s. 3d. A good selection could easily be made out of the above.

Rhodesians Rally—Australians and Mexicans Dull.

It is not perhaps surprising to find that the Rhodesian market rights itself with difficulty, when so many large "Bull" accounts have been piled up in *Chartered* of from 10,000 to 30,000 shares which had to be closed, some of them forcibly. Large options, moreover, had been entered into against which the dealers had bought half the stock, which they have since thrown overboard, making sure that the December options will not be called. Thus the rise to 2 1-16 brought a fall to 1⅞ after it, and now *Chartered* are rallying at 1 9-16. Then, again, *Tanks* had to be sold by the Brussels clique, and fell from 6⅛ to 4⅞, rallying to 5⅜. Heavy losses these, which should hamper operations for some time to come. The largest producing mines are now the *Eldorado* (at the rate of 3,800 ozs. per month) and the *Globe and Phœnix* (about 5,000 ozs. per month). *Eldorado* have dropped to 3 1-16, and *Globe and Phœnix* at 4⅝ have not quite recovered themselves, while *Giants* are quoted at 5 3-16. During the week the *Sinti Reefs* has received a cable from its consulting engineer that upon the thirty additional claims recently added gold-bearing formation has been traced right through the eastern extensions, and that as a consequence of the discovery further extensions east are being taken up. Cable advices state that claims adjoining the *Shamva* are opening up well, and that the continuity of the banket formation has been proved on the Balton claims, twelve miles east of the *Shamva*, extending ten miles to Inyangue River. If anything can help up *Chartered* it will be the success of this new goldfield and the extension of the Rhodesian railways which has now crossed the Congo borders. West Australian mines are remarkably idle, the latest decline occurring in *Kalgurli*, which are down at 6¼. *Barrier Mines* are dull, owing to the ruinous strike of coal miners in New South Wales. A sensational Queensland Government cable contradicting the favourable information recently stated at a meeting of shareholders held here of the *Gold Reefs Exploration Company* has been met by the Company despatching a competent mining engineer to report on the property, and in the meantime the shares have fallen to a nominal price of 1s. to 2s. The Mexican group has turned very dull, *Mexican Mines of El Oro* at 6 1-16, *El Oro* at 26s., *Esperanza* at 2 13-16, but I hear of strong preparations being made to engineer a Russian mining boom.

Kent Coal Concessions—A Correction.

My attention has been called to some inaccuracies which crept in in a remark of mine when replying to a correspondent concerning the Kent Coal Concessions, Limited, and which arose chiefly through inadequate information in the usual books of reference. I am very pleased, therefore, to make the necessary corrections herewith. The Secretary of the *Kent Coal Concessions, Limited*, states that the present capital is £200,000, divided in 33,169 10 per cent. preference, 66,831 convertible preference, 98,500 ordinary, and 1,500 deferred shares, all of £1 each. Since the first creation of preference shares in 1907 the dividends upon them have been regularly and punctually paid. The same authority informs me that the *Kent Collieries* have been closed down for at least twelve months.

The Rubber Exploration Company's New Motor Spirit, "Rapidin."

On Saturday and Sunday next, motorists at Brighton will be able to obtain "Rapidin," the new motor spirit, for which the Rubber Exploration Company has secured the British patents and rights, at the Royal Motor Garage, German Place, Brighton. As from Monday, the 6th inst., all motorists are cordially invited by the Rubber Exploration Company to bring their cars to Dartford, Kent, in order to inspect the factory for manufacturing "Rapidin," which is now completed, and to test the spirit for themselves.

NEW ISSUES.

The British Union and National Insurance Co., Ltd.—This company has been formed to undertake life, fire and accident insurance, with power to extend to other classes of insurance, except employers' liability. The capital is fixed at £1,000,000 in £1 shares, 500,000 of which are offered for public subscription at par, less 52,170, which have already been applied for by the directors and their friends. The company relies upon effecting considerable economies by combining the various branches, and the prospectus states that insurance companies have, notwithstanding the surrounding depression, been reaping a golden harvest. The services of Mr. Frank T. Urch, who has had 25 years' insurance experience with leading societies in this country and in the United States, have been secured. No portion of this issue has been underwritten, and no promotion profits have been, or will be, paid.

London Cinematograph Co. (1909), Ltd.—Registered in March, 1909, with a capital of £50,000, for developing a

"The Relation-in-Law."—Next week.

cinematograph filming business, this company is now seeking to place 150,000 additional shares of 10s. each at par, for an extension of the business and taking over licenses from Messrs. Lumière et ses Fils, of Lyons. The company has also contracted to purchase 25,000 "A" shares of 10s. each fully paid in Biograph Theatres, Ltd., but the whole of the results are based on estimates, and this is, therefore, a highly speculative venture, for which only those should subscribe who can afford to lose the money in case anything goes wrong.

Chicago, Lake Shore and Eastern Railway Company Gold Bonds.—This company has offered $2,200,000 4½ per cent. First Mortgage Gold Bonds, at £219 15s. per $1,000 bond. Although guaranteed by the United States Steel Corporation and an American railroad company, there is no particular catch in this offer, especially in view of the present doubtful outlook in the Yankee market.

Dennistown (Krian F.M.S.) Rubber Estates, Ltd.—This company acquires four rubber estates in the district of Krian, North Perak, in the Federated Malay States, and the capital of the company is larger than usual with Malay rubber companies, viz., £150,000 in £1 shares. It should be noted also that the vendors take nearly the whole of the purchase consideration, viz., £66,000, out of £75,000 in cash, and only £9,000 in shares, which does not show a great deal of confidence in the property. As far as the area under rubber is concerned, there will be little result for 1910 and 1911, and the estimate for 1912 is only 67,300 lbs., while in 1913 and 1914 larger amounts are estimated to be available. Under all the circumstances, the proposition is not a tempting one.

The Finland Trading Co., Ltd.—With a capital of £200,000, divided into 75,000 6 per cent. Preference shares and £125,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, this company is formed for the purpose of acquiring some businesses of sawmills and timber exports in Finland. The average profits are given for three years, 1906, 1907, and 1908, and it is to be regretted that the profits were not given separately for these years. Upon the whole, I should think that there are a great many English industrial companies in existence which compare favourably with this Finland trading company. Why, then, should investors go so far?

Cotton Cleaners' Association.—A Manchester correspondent reports that this company is being underwritten. It is said to be a *rechauffé* of the Youla patents, which proved such a dismal failure some years ago. Some of the same people appear to be connected with the new concern.

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ENQUIRIES.

We regret that we are again compelled to hold over a very large number of these. And it is becoming a serious question as to how we are to deal with this ever-growing feature. The matter is receiving our careful consideration.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

Information will be readily supplied to readers of JOHN BULL *on the following conditions:—*

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, *9, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter. Communications received after Saturday cannot be dealt with in the next issue of the paper.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

NATIONAL MEXICO PRIOR LIENS.—P. J. E. (Balham).—The Bonds carry 4½ per cent interest, not 4 per cent. as you state, and the quotation is about 106½. There are also First Consolidated Mortgage Gold Bonds, carrying 4 per cent., quoted at 88. The former is the best of the two, and practically "gilt-edged." You can get 4 per cent. interest in leading Colonial Corporation stocks, such as Johannesburg 4 per Cent. at 98½, Calcutta 4 per Cent. at 99, etc.

OROYAS, STRATTONS.—BERT (Halifax).—You had better sell Nos. 1 and 2, but you must please yourself as regards No. 3.

LOW-PRICED KAFFIRS.—ZURIC (Nottingham).—(1) Not particularly. (2) Both highly speculative, but with some attractions after the heavy fall. JERSEY.—No reason why you should not divide the amount amongst the two low-priced shares mentioned. As you say, it is not wise to put too many eggs into one basket.

FRONTINOS.—PER SE.—Yes, sell, and reinvest in South Africans, which are now at a very tempting level.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.—OTHER ISLAND.—(1) I have no special predilection for these shares. (2) A fair holding amongst cable stocks. (3) There is not much prospect of any further substantial appreciation in capital values. (4) Everything depends upon political developments.

G.N.C. COLOMBIANS, B.A. PACIFICS.—NERO (Orkney).—(1) See reply to "Colombia, Hounslow." (2) See reply to "Investor, Palmers Green." (3) Certainly not; on the contrary, highly speculative.

UNITED REALISATION CO.—E. H. W.—The latest information at October 31, 1907, the debit balance stood at £303,881, with premium required on redemption of the debentures. There is the shares, unless, perhaps, the secretary of the company purchaser.

B.A. PACIFICS.—INVESTOR (Palmers Green).—Argentine crop more favourable, and this is a "Bull" point. The question is, circumstances might not compel the Board to act next year, which will be the critical time for this railway. has a big future before it is undoubted. Watch the stock sently you might be able to get in at a fair level.

BOND SYSTEM. ORMESBY.—I do not like their bond system.

HOMESTEADS, LTD.—HURRICANE (Hants.).—Quite respectable.

BANK INVESTMENTS.—MOUNT STUART.—I really should not like opinion with regard to Nos. 1 and 2. With regard to 3, I do not exchange. W. G.—I really cannot make myself responsible but it might be useful for small amounts. G. J. V.—I cannot sibility as to safety. High rates imply some risk. INSPOR- S.H. (Broughton).—(1) To a small amount. (2) No.

MEMBER OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE.—C. D.—(1) have sent respectable broker. (2) He will give you a list of fair charg outside brokers fleece their clients, or disappear when the them. The respectable outside brokers can be counted on the

KAFFIR INVESTMENT.—PEN.—You must tell me whether payers or lower priced shares. What you require has been

ELECTROBUS.—J. O.—You had better not throw good B. W. A.—Your impression is correct, and you should refuse.

CO-OPERATIVE SHIPPING.—MARJORIE.—The success of this is

ATLAS BANKING CO.—C. A. A.—An order for the compul- has been made. You should apply to the Official Receiver.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—C. W. W. (Bolton).—Very undesirable blind pools. Don't walk into their parlour. J. R. R. I.—A firm could not have its offices at Blackheath. They are rank wish it, I will send you the name of a member of the Stock Ex —How could you give instructions to an outside broker to d on his own initiative? I do not suppose that he has done anything so far as buying on the Stock Exchange is concerned, and you sharp solicitor. INQUISITIVE.—Very doubtful; have nothing to J. W. Y.—See notice in last week's issue *re* Gerson, Hamson and in future with a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, safe. G. W. (Barnsley).—Same reply. H. H. T. (Stretford). documents are returned in your envelope. A. B. C. (Oxon).—(1) (2) I cannot say, but I should think not. (3) Yes, hold Great Perth (W.A.) Electric First Mortgage Debentures, carrying 5 and quoted about 102; redeemable by annual drawings at 107½. —One of the usual very doubtful outside concerns. CONSTANT R The experience should teach you a lesson. I send you the addr

PREMIUM BONDS.—C. K.—The connection with this Paris firm If you want to buy, select another bond, and deal through a foreign bankers, whose name I will send you. X. Y. Z. (Du no doubt paid far above market value to this Paris firm, esp ago. (2) These options are only a source of danger. (3) I h name of a respectable firm of stockbrokers, members of the S also of a foreign banker, dealing in premium bonds. REX require has been sent. (2) You had better communicate with member of the Stock Exchange, about the two stocks mention bonds are genuine enough, but these people will charge you f price. Hold the Rhodesian shares for a recovery. CONGO.—W has been forwarded to you. H. S.—I do not know these Paris do not like the instalment system, but I can give you the addr able firm who will serve you well. N. R.—I do not think for these people would not collect a drawn bond, but I know that th higher prices than market value. What you require has been envelope. HARRY.—I would not advise the connection.

CLOVERFIELD.—GOLD MINE.—(1) Since February, 1903. (2) On operations are being carried on, and it will be a long time dividends come in sight.

STEEL COMMON.—E. B. (Merthyr Tydvil).—Certainly not; on highly hazardous.

INVESTMENT OF £100.—LAUGHING GIRL.—West Australian 3½ per quite safe and can be bought at about 96, yielding almost 3 annum.

CARTAGENA SHARES.—COLOMBO.—Sell on any fresh improvement

WARINGS.—POLISHER.—If you really think that such savings by all means buy yourself some; but, in your position, you ou

MIDLANDS.—J. R. W. (Halstead).—Midlands would be good investment, but no decided improvement is expected until market better, and politics are also more settled.

SPIRELLA CO.—CYLINDRINE.—I do not advise the investment.

MASHONALAND RAILWAY DEBENTURES.—SUN.—A good investment, edged. There is a fair prospect of capital appreciation.

CINEMATOGRAPH.—S. H. (Notting Hill).—Highly speculative, but please yourself in the matter.

BOOTS, WYMANS.—ST. OSWALD (Oswestry).—(1) A fair industrial There is no information available regarding these points. You had if you can.

BRIGHTON PIER, ETC.—INQUIRER (Holborn).—(1) Not favourable given in previous issues various selections of 5 per cent. divid securities.

KENT COAL CONCESSIONS.—JUSTICE, A. E. D., A. W.—It is quite Kent Coal Concessions Prefs. have received their dividends. As Kent Collieries, what I meant to imply was that property was lo same neighbourhood and not that they are actually working.

CALUMET AND HECLA.—IGNORAMUS.—You probably have a good profit no one was ever ruined by taking such.

AUSTRALIAN ESTATES AND MORTGAGE.—UNEASY.—If the resolution by the necessary majority, you have no option but to acquiesce in th

CHINESE, JAPANESE.—M. M. (Hackney Road).—(1) Owing to the dep silver, the Chinese Silver Loan is not a "safe" investment. (2) sell, and reinvest in the Japanese 4 per cent. loans. (3) As regards investments, I have given various selections in recent issues.

VAL D'OR, TRUNKS.—BUSC.—The rubber shares are quoted at discount. When they recover to your price, you had better regards Trunks, I do not think they will reach 24 this side of the

UNITED ALKALIS.—E. S.—United Alkalis stand at about 45s., and whether you will ever see your price again. Better sell on an improv buy something more progressive.

ISRUMS, MIDLANDS, ETC.—ENBY.—(1) Hold North Western for a div provement. (2) You had better cut your loss. (3) With regard to M same reply as concerning North Western.

ROTHERHAM SILKSTONE COLLIERIES.—COLLIE.—No information is avail and you are entirely in the hands of the Receiver.

ARRAQUARA RAILWAY.—A. W. (Leeds).—It is obvious that a 6 per cent ment cannot be considered safe, but they are a fair purchase in th

WITBANK COLLIERY.—CHERRY CAP.—(1) No catch. You can do some of the Kaffir gold shares. (2) No. (3) No. (4) Yes.

SIMMER DEEP, ETC.—H. P. H.—The Simmer Deep is working at and should pay a dividend for the current half-year. All the other tioned (a to d) are equally promising. I send what you require in

4½ PER CENT. INVESTMENT.—NEMILE (Failsworth).—You can now per cent. in the leading Home Rails, such as North Western.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

"The Man who Cursed Christmas."—Next week.

THE BOY SCOUTS.

DISSENSION IN THE CAMP.

"*Every Scout Must Be a Brother to Every Other Scout.*"

We have never been able to take the Boy Scouts movement very seriously, but it has "caught on" in the country. Over 300,000 boys have been enrolled, and the authors of the scheme are entitled to congratulate themselves upon their present success. But that success is not likely to be maintained if internal dissensions now rampant are allowed to continue.

As all know, the Founder of the organization was Sir Robt. Baden-Powell, officially known as the Chief Scout, and until a few days ago Sir Francis Vane, Bart., J.P., was the Commissioner for London. The capacity of Sir Francis for that position is not questioned. He, for example, organized the show on Lord Mayor's Day. Afterwards he attended the banquet and received the congratulations of the leading guests there upon the success of his part of the procession. He is an enthusiast in the cause, and has spent much time and money upon it. He was the organizer of the meeting at the Mansion House in October, called to support the movement, and General Baden-Powell thanked him heartily for his services in that connection. He holds many other communications from the General testifying to his service to the cause. But suddenly, on November 16th, Sir Francis was informed by the managing secretary that it had been decided to abolish the post of Commissioner for London and to close the office. On November 18th, a meeting of London Boy Scouts was held at 116, Victoria Street, when Sir Francis Vane referred to the abolition of his office and protested against it. The feeling of the meeting, consisting of a large number of scouts, secretaries and scout masters, was so strongly in favour of Sir Francis, that General Baden Powell agreed to rescind the order cancelling the London Commissionership. But on the 20th, Sir Francis Vane received a letter from General Baden-Powell calling upon him to resign on the ground of the position he took up at the meeting of the 18th. At that meeting, the General used these remarkable words, with reference to Sir Francis :—

"I have never had such a worker under me as Sir Francis Vane. He has worked heart and soul. . . . . I will have the letter abolishing the Commissionership rescinded."

Sir Francis Vane has called a meeting of secretaries and scout masters for December 3rd. It is to be held at the Caxton Hall at 8 p.m., where the personal and other important questions respecting the future of the movement will be discussed. It certainly seems that Sir Francis Vane has been treated with rather scant courtesy, and that the most excellent sentiment quoted at the head of this article, and which every boy scout is required to adopt, is not always observed in Sir Baden-Powell's relations with his colleagues and subordinates.

THOSE WINDSOR KNIGHTS AGAIN.

"An Old Windsor Resident" writes :—

May I ask why an officer who served in the Crimea and was wounded at Balaclava, and who was considered fit to command a crack cavalry regiment for many years, and who, during the interregnum caused by the death of the old and advent of the new Governor, acted as Governor of the Military Knights, but who now is superseded as Acting-Governor by a junior officer while the Governor is absent ?

Is it because (though Senior Knight) he is a Roman Catholic, yet still, as a Roman Catholic, attends all the extra services ordered by the authorities ?

Are you aware that an Army Order has recently been published whereby all future candidates must be members of the Church of England.

No Roman Catholics or Dissenters are eligible.

Is it a creditable thing for the twentieth century to reinstitute religious tyranny and to so administer a charity intended for poor deserving old officers, in the interests of the Church of England only ?

It seems as if every charitable institution's affairs had been overhauled and brought up to date, except the Military Knights, which seem to have returned to the days of 1349, when they were instituted. Surely Parliament has a right to enquire into any abuses that take place in these sort of places.

£50 FOR A SHORT STORY.

The Editor of "M.A.P." offers the sum of £50 to the sender of the original short story between 1,000 and 3,000 words in length which he considers to be the best of those received.

Authors who wish to compete should study carefully the style of story in "M.A.P." in which the full conditions of this offer appear every week.

Opportunities in the Share Market.

On Monday last the Subscription List for shares in the new Insurance Company—the British Union and National—was opened. The Board consists of a body of influential business men under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Barclay, L.L.B. The Company combines in one office all classes of Insurance except Workmen's Compensation, which the directors consider to be at present of an unprofitable character. This combination should not only reduce working expenses, but insurers in one department may naturally be expected to place their other risks with the Company. Industrial Life Insurance will be a leading feature in the Life Department.

More than 50,000 shares have already been applied for by the directors and their friends out of the 500,000 shares offered by the prospectus. As usual with Banks and Insurance Companies, the shares will only be partially paid-up. In fact, it is proposed to call up only 5s. per share—viz., 1s. on application, 2s. on allotment, and 2s. one month after allotment, and a moiety of the shares are reserved for future issue.

Insurance business is beyond the reach of events which affect ordinary Commercial undertakings, such as cost of material, price of labour, strikes, and the state of the money market ; while the amounts paid to Insurance Companies increase enormously year by year. The market prices of Insurance shares show that there is less variation in dividends and an all-round appreciation in Capital value unequalled by any other form of investment.

The Chief Offices of the British Union and National will be in London, and the General Manager has had a long experience in both English and American Insurance, and is thus in a position to call the attention of the directors to the favourable features of both, to the advantage of the Company.

No portion of the issue has been underwritten. No promotion profits have been or will be paid ; and the directors have provided the £20,000 deposit required by the Life Assurance Acts, and the cost of registering and insuring the Company.

What is Your Number?

See Page iii. of Cover.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(SPECIALLY MIS-REPORTED FOR "JOHN BULL.")

BY RICHARD MORTON.

THEATRE V. MUSIC HALL.—SERIOUS OFFENCE.

At Longbow Street, there was yesterday heard another case of great interest to theatrical and variety people. Wallsend Cole was summoned for having transgressed against the law by permitting the performance of a dramatic piece, or stage play, upon his premises known as the Callandseeum, such premises, as aforesaid, not being licensed for the same.

Mr. Shudderquick, prosecuting on behalf of the Slumping Theatre Proprietors' Association, detailed what he called the facts of this sensational offence. The music-hall where the performance took place was licensed for music and dancing, but not for stage plays. However, the Association of theatrical managers which he represented, was good enough to allow the music-halls to perform stage plays, provided such performances lasted not more than thirty minutes each.

The Magistrate: Do I understand your Association connives at the music-halls breaking the law, within certain limits?

Mr. Shudderquick: That is so. We allow them to break the law for thirty minutes, but not longer.

The Magistrate: Isn't that rather like compounding a felony?

Mr. Shudderquick: In any event, the variety managers were not grateful. The defendant Cole had actually conspired with an actor named Fewmore Jerks, to produce a dramatic piece or stage play called "The Swearing Club." It was a very tragic and exciting affair, and was calculated to ruin the theatres if allowed to continue its iniquitous and unlawful career. Mr. Fewmore Jerks ought to know better, because he himself had been a theatrical manager and proprietor, and he was aware of the damage these things did. Yet he permitted his play to fill out time to the incredible extent of thirty-one minutes and six seconds, thereby flying in the face of the Association and spurning the gifts it was good enough to bestow on him and his kind. It was an outrageous case, and he pressed for the full penalty. He did not wish Mr. Cole sent to prison on this occasion, but an example should be made.

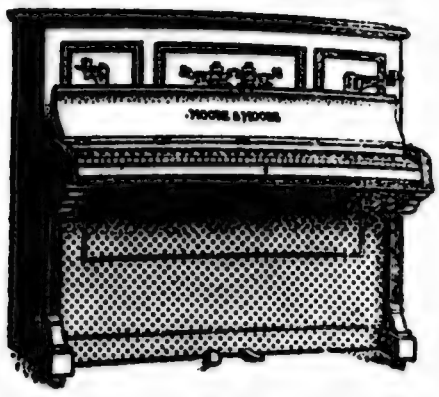
Sir Sherbert Free, President of the prosecuting Association, gave evidence, and said it was a terrible thing that, while he was playing Shakespeare for three hours per evening, and while "The Dollar Princess" was being performed for a like space of time, men in the position of the defendant could pop in and play dramas such as "The Swearing Club" for thirty-one minutes and six seconds, and so cut the ground from under their feet and steal all their patrons. In the name of Art he protested against this defiance of the Law. Let them break the Law for thirty minutes only, and he would give them his benediction, but that extra minute and a few seconds cut him to the quick and mortified his artistic soul.

Speaking on his own behalf, Mr. Wallsend Cole, the defendant, said it was curious that he should be dropped on for an offence of one minute, while other delinquents were allowed to go scot free. He did his best to give a good show, and bought the best goods he could get hold of. Of course, the whole compromise with the Association was illegal, and *ultra vires*, and *magnum bonum*, and a lot of other things, and, therefore, he had no excuse, but must plead guilty. But his offence, like that of Mr. Midshipman Easy's nurse, was only a little one, and he asked for a small fine so as to discourage these malicious prosecutions.

Mr. Fewmore Jerks insisted on being heard, though his natural modesty bade him keep silent. His little play, the subject of this prosecution, was a perfect gem and a work of real genius. He had written it himself, so he knew. He had endeavoured to compress it within the speed limit of thirty minutes, but, squeeze his masterpiece as he might, it would run a minute over time. Was he a criminal because literature and the drama burst these trammels and exceeded by one minute the indulgence, totally illegal, which theatrical managers had conspired to permit? He said no. And, while he was at it, what about those variety theatres where ballet was performed? The moment they introduced a plot, they broke the law, yet some ballets lasted an hour and a half.

The Magistrate said he had no difficulty in coming to a decision. Music-halls were licensed for music and dancing only. A ballet, with action, might be an offence. So might every song, comic or otherwise, wherein the singer wore stage costume or portrayed a character. The present case was clear, and the fine would be fifty pounds and costs.

DOUBLE CHRISTMAS NUMBER. PRICE 2D., NEXT WEEK.



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—and information about the Piano we are giving FREE as a Christmas Present.

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Telephone 670 Central.

ARE YOU TOO THIN?

I have discovered a scientific yet perfectly simple method of flesh-forming that will make you plump, robust and healthy.

I can show you how to put on flesh—how to increase your weight pounds per day. I have proved that unnatural thinness is due to LACK OF NERVE FORCE, which prevents the assimilation of food and the proper nourishment of the body. I can show you how to cure this. I have discovered a treatment which will actually put good, solid flesh on you, will fill out the hollows in your cheeks and make them rosy and plump. It is a Treatment of NERVE-BUILDING and NERVE-NOURISHING that gives increased vitality and vigour. It never fails; it has completely transformed me from one of the most emaciated of men into a man well-developed and clothed with firm, healthy flesh. What I have done for myself I do for others, and what I have done for others I can do for you. I have proved this already in thousands of cases, and I have abundant testimony to show that

A. GORDON WALLACE
Author of
"Emaciation: Cause and Treatment"

THE LEAN CAN BE MADE PLUMP.

To prove to you that my Treatment is successful, to convince you that you can actually increase your weight, and thereby greatly improve your appearance and add to your stock of vitality, I am prepared to make this exceptional offer. I will send you

ABSOLUTELY FREE

14 Days' Treatment & Book for the Thin.

Write to me personally. Address your letter: A. GORDON WALLACE, Dept. 38 Cavendish House, Old Cavendish Street, London W. State whether Mr., Mrs., Miss., Rev., or other title. I will send you a package in plain wrapper containing sufficient for a FORTNIGHT'S TREATMENT and a copy of my work, "EMACIATION: CAUSE AND TREATMENT," free and post paid.

A POSTCARD WILL DO to make your application for a free package, but remember you must write at once, for I cannot afford to keep this exceptional offer open indefinitely.

THE YEAR'S GREAT SUCCESS.

Scheme for Making Brighter British Homes Meets with Brilliant Response.

A VALUABLE SUGGESTION FOR ALL "JOHN BULL" READERS.

It is now many months ago when a well-known West-End house put forward a clever scheme for the brightening of British homes.

That this scheme has proved a success is shown by the fact that some ten thousand copies of a book dealing with the matter have already been distributed. It may be said at once that the supply of these books has not ceased, and all JOHN BULL readers who so desire may obtain copies free of cost.

We may say that the central idea of the matter is the furnishing of homes without heavy outlay, and as may be supposed, the pioneers of the scheme are Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander.

Realising that whilst many a man or woman desired to furnish or re-furnish the home they would not consent to do so on the harsh, ridiculous system of paying nearly double for goods just to obtain deferred terms, Wolfe and Hollander set on foot their new system.

THE SYSTEM WHICH PLEASED THE PUBLIC.

Any person, without any trouble or delay, could visit their extensive premises, select the furniture desired, and obtain the advantage of extended payments simply by adding 5 per cent. to the total cost. Let us explain this. If you wish for, say, £100 worth of furniture, and desire to extend payment over one, two, or three years, your total cost is £105. £50 worth will cost but £52 10s., £20 worth will cost but £21.

Not only have Londoners appreciated this idea, but throughout the provinces and abroad Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander's scheme has been accepted by persons in all ranks of society.

It has now been found imperative to open a special branch in the provinces to cope with the exceptional number of orders flowing in, and therefore Wolfe and Hollander have secured temporary premises at 22, Worcester Street, Birmingham, where their representative, Mr. A. Hollander, may be seen at any time.

"JOHN BULL" MIDLAND READERS

should make a special note of this, and at their earliest convenience either call or write for the furnishing book the firm issue.

The Birmingham branch will be in close contact with the London head centre, and will be personally conducted by one of the directors.

Every facility will be given provincial readers to obtain the best the furnishing world can produce, and pay for the same at leisure by simply adding 5 per cent. to the cash prices.

Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander hold an unique position in the furnishing world. Dealing constantly with the aristocracy of the land, private gentry, clergymen, solicitors, Army, and other State officials, they appreciate the "something better" desires of those who wish to establish genuinely comfortable homes on rich, luxurious lines.

Though Wolfe and Hollander have titled gentry upon their books as delighted patrons, nevertheless their great success is with the so-called middle class, where the solidity of the country is centred.

This happy mode of giving a man or woman

EXACTLY WHAT IS WANTED

at reasonable cost has carried them past all opposition to the head of this especial industry.

Whether you desire just a few additional pieces of furniture for the home, whether you desire a mansion re-furnished, Wolfe and Hollander are ready to execute your wishes *at once*.

There is no delay whatsoever. Just state your requirements, or, better still, call and inspect the actual articles at Tottenham Court Road, make your choice, and, if desired, those chosen articles will be in your home in a few hours.

Whether you decide to re-furnish now or later you should certainly send at once for a copy of Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander's book. It is a sumptuous production, which cannot fail to interest every man and woman.

Remember, a well-furnished home not only means added comfort but greater social prestige. It is even a commercial asset that may influence greatly those who enter your private house to complete special business transactions.

Your application for the new furniture book should be addressed to Wolfe and Hollander, 252 to 256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W. It is sufficient to send your name and address on a postcard. Wolfe and Hollander's telegraphic address is "Wolfhol, London." Telephones: 1850 Gerrard, 14299 Central.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

BY M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

It is a strange fact that the lives of so many of the world's immortal music-makers should have flickered out to the beat of funeral dirges instead of triumphal marches.

There is scarcely one I can recall to have been granted a "happy ending," and yet the wondrous melodies of these soul-inspired spirits all live, and are gloriously sung and played and chanted in every land throughout the kingdom.

The success of the "Beethoven" tragedy in France, though, was mainly due to the beautiful verse of the newly-found poet, René Fauchois, whose lines were so gracefully spoken to the great musician's exquisitely dreamy and at times impassioned works, that it was almost like listening to a wonderful recitation set to Beethoven's music.

At His Majesty's Theatre, Mr. Louis N. Parker has preferred to adapt the French play into prose and somehow the chords between melody and rhetoric are not in harmony. The music disturbs the story; the story is destroyed by the music—you want to listen to one thing at a time, and in doing this you forget what ought to be the main subject—the *life* of Beethoven—for the action of the play is entirely submerged in Landon Ronald's wonderfully orchestrated selections from the great Austrian composer's masterpieces.

In facial appearance and figure, Beerbohm Tree presents a perfect study of Beethoven, the musical dreamer into whose sad existence creeps no shadow of love, who never learns the sweet abiding comfort of affection, or knows the tenderness of a woman's sympathetic heart.

As a performance Sir Herbert Tree leaves one with an impression one is bound to place on record for its startling note of truth—its terrible realism when he discovers that deafness has shut off for ever from his ears those wailing sounds he but lived to hear, and the ever restless fear that others might discover the bitter fate that eventually overcame him.

Following the pathetic death of Beethoven in his dingy old room in Vienna comes "A Russian Tragedy," done into English by Henry Hamilton from the German of Adolph Glass.

Oh dear me, what a doleful tale it is, and how indifferently acted save by Henry Ainley, who makes a bold dash for it as a bloodthirsty Nihilist, and Edward Sass, the cruel Governor of Petrovolsk—the man whose work it is to torture and to kill, but who behaves like an absolute idiot at the mere suggestion of a woman's freakish will.

This uninteresting little drama is but a weak finale to His Majesty's evening entertainment.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR.

To anyone knowing the true state of affairs and the very strained relations that existed for so many, many years between Constant Coquelin and the Comédie Française, the visit to Paris of John Hare, Squire Bancroft, Arthur Bourchier, and a score more for the purpose of unveiling a tablet in the House of Moliere given by English artists in memory of their brother actor, seems, to say the least of it, somewhat strange.

Coquelin's rupture with the Française all happened through Rostand's play "Cyrano de Bergerac," the English version of which is presently going to be produced at the Lyric Theatre. Coquelin was enraptured with the role of Cyrano, but the Comédie refused to stage the piece, which caused the French actor to quit the theatre in a huff, to sever his connection with the famous playhouse and play "Cyrano de Bergerac" on his own at the Porte St. Martin.

A lawsuit followed, and Coquelin had to pay heavy damages to the Comédie Française for playing outside its sacred walls, which no Soçietaire is allowed to do without permission.

Many years later Coquelin tried to get back again to the House of Moliere, but the Administrateur Général and the various soçietaires refused point blank to have anything further to do with him, and, what is more, added insult to injury by returning him the large sum of money he had to pay the Comédie as indemnity for forsaking it.

Coquelin felt the blow very keenly, and it was war between himself and the Théatre Française to his dying day.

THE NEW "SMITH."

What a different atmosphere Irene Vanbrugh brings with her into Somerset Maugham's witty play at the Comedy Theatre! Miss Marie Löhr was all girlishness, prettiness, and that pinky whiteness which I regret to say still savours of the schoolroom, but the character requires an actress of experience to give it just the convincing touch it lacked when the piece was first produced. The presence of Miss Vanbrugh as "Smith" has wonderfully strengthened the popularity of Mr. Maugham's latest success, and Charles Frohman could not have made a wiser selection. Irene is simply great!

THE name of Mr. James Munford, the director of Kensington College, has been familiar to us for many years in connection with commercial education, and those of our readers who are thinking of undertaking a course of training in business subjects cannot do better than write to Mr. Munford at the College, Queen's Road, Bayswater, for a prospectus.

XMAS PARTY

In thousands of homes it's the only occasion when the whole family can meet together at one table. You may be trusted to provide the best provisions money can buy, and the cooking will be quite reliable, but a shabby badly worn set of Table Cutlery is a serious let down, and quite spoils the effect of the table arrangements. Nothing is more noticed than the Cutlery, and the attractions of a well provided table are many times multiplied by a well matched set of Genuine Sheffield Knives, Forks, and Spoons. It is a pity to have good well cooked food spoiled at the table through using blunt seedy-looking cutlery. There is no need to make a difficulty of the price, because we will supply our WORLD-RENOWNED ....

"ENTERPRISE" PARCEL

for 2/6 and your promise to send 9 monthly payments of 2/6. When received and examined, if you are not absolutely satisfied, we will return the money and cancel immediately. The Contents include a Complete Outfit of Table Cutlery and Plate which will last a lifetime. Every piece matches perfectly and is designed in the newest style. The Knives are of Genuine Sheffield Steel of warranted temper and high finish. The handles are of Ivory Texture Ivorette and are carefully matched in faithful reproduction of choicest African Ivory. An ornament to any table in the land. The Spoons and Forks are manufactured from Columbian Silver, which is a special amalgam of metals exclusively produced for our Factory. Columbian Silver is a hard white metal which carries a superfine polish indistinguishable from sterling silver, and wears white all through. Unaffected by acid foods or exposure to air, it will retain its pure white appearance under all conditions.

All made in our own Factory.

WE ASK FOR ONLY 2/6 WITH ORDER.

51 pieces for 25/-

6 Table Knives, 6 Table Forks, 6 Dessert Knives, 6 Dessert Forks, 6 Dessert Spoons, 6 Tea Spoons, 6 Egg Spoons, 2 Salt Spoons, 1 Mustard Spoon, 1 Mat Spoon, 1 pr Sugar Tongs, 1 Butter Knife, 1 Pickle Fork.

CATALOGUE FREE

Genuine Sheffield Cutlery and Electro-plate Post Free. Specialities for Presents at very low prices. Ask for Catalogue E. You save enormously by buying direct from the Factory. 2/- in the £ Cash Discount

J. & G. GRAVES Ltd.,

Cutlery & Plate Manufacturers, SHEFFIELD.

"The Stick in the Glass Case"

YARDLEY'S SHAVING SOAP

SAVES TIME—Because its flat creamy lather does not dry.

Discomfort—because it leaves the skin soothed and comforted.

Money—because it is so economical in use.

It is all British and the BEST on the market, 1/- post free, or from your chemist.

Free Sample on application to the makers—

Stratford, London, E., Dept. "A."

£295,280
PAID TO CLIENTS.

This is what we have paid away to date. The money has gone into the pockets of our clients. Clients of the National Share Exchange have benefited to that extent. Below are particulars of the accounts of a few clients out of thousands who have made profits and received them.

A FEW NEW CLIENTS' ACCOUNTS.

Cheques. W. J. W.	Amount.
4,170	8 0 0
4,493	5 15 0
4,736	5 5 0
5,712	5 0 0
5,865	10 0 0
6,052	12 17 6
6,450	6 10 0
7,910	7 7 9
8,563	39 15 0
9,275	19 10 0
9,667	38 15 0
10,392	28 18 4
10,762	59 0 0
31,526	30 0 0
12,527	42 19 0
13,425	150 0 0
	£469 12 7

Cheques. N. R.	Amount.
1,326	6 18 8
2,587	24 0 0
3,642	19 16 6
7,108	29 17 0
	£80 12 2

Cheques. N. J.	Amount.
12,666	7 15 0
9,569	50 0 0
9,855	25 13 0
10,049	155 5 0
	£238 13 0

Cheques. R. R. W.	Amount.
2,490	8 12 0
6,235	7 10 0
7,129	39 0 0
7,291	10 0 0
10,312	28 0 0
11,668	26 10 0
	£119 12 0

Cheques. W. F. W.	Amount.
468	28 0 0
1,715	24 11 0
2,390	32 10 0
3,380	27 10 0
7,884	13 7 6
11,128	12 0 0
2,679	116 10 0
	£254 8 6

Cheques. W. T. P.	Amount.
4,635	12 0 0
5,049	21 5 4
5,824	11 15 0
6,940	21 17 6
7,561	10 0 0
7,578	11 12 6
14,280	75 0 0
7,119	60 2 6
	£223 12 10

Cheques. W. J. W.	Amount.
1,361	19 0 0
5,503	18 0 0
7,710	39 9 6
9,029	50 0 0
9,748	75 10 0
11,704	65 7 6
12,499	7 10 0
12,803	100 0 0
13,185	122 15 11
	£497 12 11

These clients have profited. But thousands of other clients have also benefited since January, 1907, to the amount of £295,280. Why should not you? Fill in the coupon and get particulars of the facts of our busines.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICULARS.

TO THE SECRETARY,
NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
22, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) full particulars of your methods of business as well as 40 pp. printed book of cheques, totalling £295,280. which you have paid clients starting with £6 and upwards, acting on your advice and recommendations since January, 1907.

NAME .....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Title.)

J.B. 20.

ADDRESS IN FULL .....
.....
Please Write Distinctly.

DATE ....

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Is the Liberal Government a "going" concern?
Are the Peers really revolting?
Who said it should be spelt "Landsdown" now?
Does Lord Charles Beresford expect another signal victory?
Isn't the threatened egg famine good news for political candidates?
Is Hampton Court Palace really short of hose?
Wouldn't a tax on raw cotton be a reel disaster?
Is the proposed Children's Aerial League all "kid"?
Is the London "elevated" railway intended for "elevated" passengers?
Isn't American humour chiefly ill-humour?
Wouldn't April 1st be a suitable date for "acorn day"?
Isn't Lord Rosebery "odd man out" again?

Dr. Thomas Dutton declares that beer is a wholesome and valuable food. And, we may add, easily absorbed into the system.

"We have ceased to be a self-governing people," says Mr. Ure. We fear he speaks for himself only.

"Those who cannot answer their children's 'Whys?' have no right to have children," says Dr. C. Morgan. Wise man.

Christmas puddings are to be cheaper this year. But most of us will pay dearly for them.

At Bromley a man has lived for two years in a pigstye. Pork creature.

The Rev. J. Watts-Ditchfield wishes that common-sense "could be added to the Litany." He must join the League.

A school for waiters is to be established in Chicago. Students will expect to get good tips.

"Money has its limits," says *Great Thoughts*. We must not speak of "unbounded wealth" again.

"*Volcnoa* Wakes Up," reads a *Star* headline. Why doesn't the proof-reader follow its example?

Lord Hawke says that cricket is too much of a business. Yet people only play at it?

The Suffragettes who decline to wear clothes in gaol are evidently determined to grin and bare it.

"The Blot" is the name of a new book. Someone seems to have been slinging ink.

Sir H. Beerbohm Tree believes in having dreams. But he is not to be caught napping.

It is stated that over 6,000 season-ticket holders reside at Southend-on-Sea. Why not call it Southend-Seas-on?

"A conundrum is a sort of verbal assault and battery," defines Frank Richardson. And generally ends in a surrender.

"The Blue Bird" is the name of a forthcoming play. Actors who have experienced "the bird" will appreciate the choice of colour.

According to the *British Weekly*, "the booksellers report somewhat unfavourably on the sale of the 'White Prophet.'" This reads like a Prophet and Loss Account.

An "explosive letter" has been sent to Baron Rothschild of Vienna. Nothing new; we often get letters intended to blow us up.

In a French duel, the principals, after failing to shed blood, shed tears.

An American millionaire's son, who married against his father's wish, is now driving a motor-omnibus. We hope he won't run the old man down.

Mr. Henry Forster advises every girl to put her looks on the credit side of her bank book. But she must get someone to value them first.

A horse named Drury Lane won a race recently. "The Whip," no doubt.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.—The advent of Christmas is impressed upon us by the opening of Gamage's Bazaar. This mammoth exhibition is daily crowded with delighted youngsters—and adults—who fully appreciate the amazing and tasteful display of toys and presents, of all kinds and all values, the stalls being delightfully arranged to represent the various nations of the world. Marionette, conjuring and other high-class entertainments are held throughout the day, all of which are provided free. Just now, Holborn is distinctly the place to spend a happy day.

ASTOUNDING BARGAINS.
Donegal Tweeds and Homespuns in lengths or suit to Measure from 3.7/6.
Beauti ul Range. Patterns on application.
WRAY, DONEGAL

Do You Want a Guinea?
IF SO,
See Page iii. of Cover.

AUTOMATIC PIANOS
ON
SHARING TERMS.
LATEST MODELS.

New Catalogue FREE.

KEITH PROWSE & Co., Ltd.,
AUTOMATIC DEPARTMENT,
38, Berners Street, LONDON. W.

It is Xtravagant

to buy new things when your old ones can be successfully renovated and made not only fit for use, but actually to look almost as new. And that is what the Achille Serre scientific Dry-cleaning process can do for your soiled and stained suits, dresses or curtains.

We have practised this process for over 30 years with the utmost success, and we are sure we can please you. It does not cost much—only 3/9 for a complete suit—and the time taken is but a few days.

Write to-day for a copy of our pamphlet "Clothes and the Man" and the address of our nearest branch or agency.

Achille Serre Ltd.,
(Nettoyage a Sec)
Hackney Wick, London, E.
Phone 1265 East.

"Who Killed the Government?"—Next week.

DAMP-PROOF AND NON-SQUEAKING

A WONDERFUL NEW METHOD OF HIGH-CLASS BOOT MAKING.

In the past, the one great drawback with ordinary "welted" boots has always been that they could not be guaranteed damp-proof. There were two reasons for this:

(1st) Because, having no "middle-sole," the damp absorbed by the "outer-sole" was transmitted direct on to the "inner-sole." (2nd) The welt seam was always liable to let wet through the sewing holes. By this new process a rubber "feather" is laid along the lip of the inner sole, and the tension of the thread in the process of sewing the welt causes an absolutely water-tight seam. Next, a thin sheet of rubber canvas is inserted between the inner sole and the outer sole. This is held in close contact with the rubber "feather" by pressure during the process of stitching the outer sole to the welt—thus an impenetrable waterproof barrier is established right across the boot. Another advantage is that the rubber canvas acts as a cushion and prevents squeaking. We guarantee every boot to be damp-proof and silent. Already we have received hundreds of testimonials from all parts of the country.

SEND 14s. 6d. FOR A SAMPLE PAIR ON APPROVAL AND EXAMINE THEM IN YOUR OWN HOME. MONEY REFUNDED IN FULL IF NOT APPROVED.

Our new 128 page Catalogue sent free on receipt of 2d. (to cover cost of postage only). Write for it to-day.

FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR DOOR

No. 1689

POST FREE 14/6

DESCRIPTION.—No. 1689. Finest selected Box Calf upper with golosh (no side seams), unbreakable jockey back strip, leather lined, straight toe cap, golosh and facing punched as illustrated. Best English leather sole, specially selected. Goodyear welted and stitched. Best workmanship, superb finish. Built on the new patent "Dry-Shod" process. Warranted damp-proof and non-squeaking.

The "Barratt" System of Sizes and Widths:

GENTLEMEN'S Damp-proof "Footshape" Boots are made in eight different sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size in four different widths. No. 3 width (for slender feet; No. 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No. 6 (extra wide).

HOW TO ORDER.—Fill in the attached Order Form, stating size (length) usually worn, then the width according to the shape of your foot. If narrow, order No. 3 width; if medium, No. 4 width; if wide, No. 5 width; if extra wide, No. 6 width.

SEND YOUR ORDER NOW

Write your name and address here.

W. BARRATT & CO., LTD.,
The World's Leading "Boots-by-Post" Specialists.
(Desk 66), STERLING WORKS,
NORTHAMPTON.

APPROVAL ORDER FORM. "JOHN BULL," 4/12/09.

Please forward one pair of Damp-proof Boots, No. 1689. Size..... Width—..... Price 14s. 6d., on condition that if not approved cash will be refunded in full and postage paid both ways.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

BIRKBECK BANK

Established 1851.
SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
2½ PER CENT. INTEREST
allowed on Deposit Accounts, repayable on demand
2 PER CENT. INTEREST
on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book.
All general Banking Business transacted.
ALMANACK with full particulars, POST FREE.
C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary

PICTURES

Spanish Beauties. Aragonese Groups, Photos. From Life, Bull Fights, etc.

State wishes clearly, and full satisfaction guaranteed. Assortments from 3/- upwards, postal order,
SEHRGENT, 228, Rua S. de S. Cosme, OPORTO. (Postage 2½d.)

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS PROFITABLE FIELD.

There are brilliant openings in Electricity nowadays for one who possesses the necessary technical training. This training is offered you in your spare time, in your own home, by the International Correspondence Schools' course on Electrical Engineering. Thomas A. Edison says:—

"Your system of specialised education will find a great need in the rapidly expanding field of Electricity—a field of splendid opportunities for men who acquire the necessary technical training through such thorough and practical courses as you offer."

Besides giving this thorough training, the International Correspondence Schools render their students free service in the matter of employment. Send us a postcard for particulars and practical testimony from employers and students.

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS, LTD.
Dept. 174E, International Buildings, Kingsway, London, W.C.

Besides the Electrical Engineering course, the I.C.S. have over 180 other practical correspondence courses for technical, commercial and Civil Service appointments.
Prospectus of any course free. Mention the line which interests you.

To Lovers of Good Tobacco

One of these Blends will prove to be the very Blend you've sought.

"TWO HOUR" Mixture — **5d. per oz.**
Cool, Fragrant, and absolutely Pure.

"ALDERWOOD" Mixture — **5½d. per oz.**
In Three Strengths. Our Latest Success

"LUNTIN" Mixture — **6½d. per oz.**
In Three Strengths.
The Blend that made us famous.

"MOUND" Mixture — **1/4 per 2 ozs.**
Blended from the finest leaf procurable.

All the Best Tobacconists supply the above, but should you have any difficulty, send stamps to the amount for Samples to the Manufacturers,

THOMSON and PORTEOUS, EDINBURGH.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The EDITOR *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

E. V. (Port Talbot) draws our attention to a statement in the *Daily Mail* that the Budget has induced many people to withdraw their subscriptions from hospitals. This is, in the opinion of some people, an argument in favour of the Budget.

W. E. M. DRIVER (Fulham) says that motor 'bus drivers are very hardly treated. He was arrested for exceeding the speed limit in the Edgware Road, but he found that the watches of the police were inaccurate. However, he was fined, and lost a day through having to attend the police court. He has, moreover, been suspended for a month, and will have to pay 7s. to obtain a renewal of his licence.

B. H. (Maidenhead) is a J.P. who has been entering for a Cabinet competition and has been suddenly overtaken by qualms as to whether he did not knowingly indulge in a gamble. We hope he will never do anything more wicked than that.

E. P. B. (Stoke Newington) appeals to us on behalf of the down-trodden servants of the Gas Light and Coke Co. We are making a note of all the particulars with which he has kindly favoured us.

"ENLIGHTENED" (Wimbledon) says that on the cashiers' desks of the Express Dairy Co. there are boxes labelled "Depot Fund," but that the waitresses get nothing out of it, the money being divided between the managueresses and the cashiers. He says that if the public knew this very little money would find its way into the boxes. That, however, surely depends upon the attractions of the managueresses and the cashiers?

J. B. (Tipton) has had a correspondence with Messrs. Bass about the increased price of their ale at New Street Station, Birmingham. We note that they are indignant about it, but that they propose to defer taking action until it is seen what the Lords do about the Budget. But they know now.

H. W. F. (Marylebone) accuses us of suggesting that it is the duty of the State to look after people's morals. We never suggested anything of the kind, but we do consider that in the case of the Abode of Love it is the duty of the State to protect weak women against a designing scoundrel.

H. J. (Clapton).—We do not know anything of the firm, and cannot take upon ourselves the responsibility of advising you. We note what you say in the rest of your letter.

"JUVENIS" (Bellshill, N.B.) thinks it a great pity we were not present at the making of the world, as we should have made a much better job of it. We do not, however, admit that the Scottish Sunday was part of the scheme of the creation.

If the writer of the letter signed "Tired of Answering Advertisements" will send us her name and address in confidence, we will investigate her complaint.

E. M. (Aberdeen) says that the local dealers have little faith in Christie's. He suggests that valuable art treasures have been sent up only to be returned with vague and evasive replies, that experts followed them back to buy them up. But we must not assume that Christie's know of these things. He wants to give the knock-out system a thorough knock out.

C. G. A. (Ivybridge) says we ought all to support the boy scout movement because it aims at instilling observation, discipline and good manners.

THE IDEAL RESTORATIVE.

KELOVIN Turtle Wine,

that is, Essence of Turtle in good Port Wine.

Invaluable to the Asthmatic, the Anaemic and the Consumptive. A perfect "Pick-me-up" when run down, or after Colds, Chills, Influenza etc. Fact (Price 3/6 per bottle of Wine Merchants, Stores or Chemists. The Proprietor will forward carriage paid to any address, the bottles for 10/6.

H. J. GRIFFIN, II, TRINITY SQUARE, TOWER HILL, LONDON, E.C.

CASH ADVANCES

£20 to £5,000 On Note of Hand alone. EASY REPAYMENTS. MODERATE CHARGES. Call, write, or 'Phone 628 City, 6555 London Wall.

PROMPTLY PRIVATELY

FRANK EVANS, 49, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.

A MERRY XMAS

YOU never had so much real jollity, amusement, and fun in your life as you will have this Xmas with our New Perfected "CORONAPHONE." It caters for every taste—you can have the best music of the day, the most renowned Military Bands, the most Celebrated Singers, the Finest Orchestras, Grand and Comic Opera, all the popular songs of the Great Comic Artistes, and everything worth hearing may be enjoyed right in the midst of your own Family Circle.

WE DELIVER our New Perfected 'Coronaphone' with SIX SUPERB 10in. RECORDS for 5/- only, and if you are entirely satisfied after you have heard the Machine, the balance is payable by nine monthly payments of 5/- The "Coronaphone" is in every respect a first-class machine fitted with a powerful silent motor which is guaranteed for Five Years. The Cabinet is of exclusive design, made from Solid Oak, and polished to a fine piano finish. The Tone Arm is of highly effective capacity and approved design. The Sound Horn is lavishly decorated in tasteful and harmonious tints, and the reproducer is so exquisitely sensitive as to render with full effect the most powerful band records, as well as the most delicate vocal or instrumental solo compositions with charming and powerful effect.

Money returned if you are not completely satisfied.

WE ASK FOR ONLY 5/- WITH ORDER.

CATALOGUE FREE. Send for our New Catalogue, containing all styles and prices of both Needle and Sapphire Talking Machines, all offered on the most beneficial terms ever known. 2/- in the £ Discount for Cash.

GREAT RECORD OFFER. Every Talking Machine owner should send for our Extraordinary Offer of Needle Disc Records arranged in complete Programmes of 20 Magnificent Selections delivered for 3/6 with order and Easy Monthly Payments.

J.G. GRAVES Ltd. SHEFFIELD.

"TADDY'S" GRAPNEL MIXTURE

A BLEND OF CHOICE TOBACCOS.

Price 6½d. per one Ounce Packet.
" 1/1 " two " Tin
" 2/2 " four " "

A HANDY LITTLE PRESENT for Yourself or Friend.

Just the thing for the Waistcoat Pocket, Purse or Wrist-bag.

Sold by all Stationers.

Price 2/6.

Post Paid in U.K. 2/7

A Small sum well spent.

Made in BLACK, MOTTLED or RED VULCANITE SPRING NEEDLE. SMOOTH POINT. May be carried in any position. Write for Complete Catalogue.

MABIE TODD & CO., 79 & 83, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.; 93, Cheapside, E.C.; 95, Regent St., W., London; 3, Exchange St., Manchester. 10, Rue Neuve, BRUSSELS; Brentano's 37, Ave de l'Opera, PARIS.

ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. [Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

Our Advertising Manager Edits a Page.—Next week.

The CAVENDISH Easy Chair

38/6 or 3s. 6d. with order and balance 6s. monthly. No reduction for cash.

THE "CAVENDISH" is another triumph of value from the famous "Berkley" Easy Chair Factories, comfort and durability being specially studied in its manufacture. This is a deep-seated Chair, luxuriously upholstered, with best coppered Springs in seat, back and front edge, and although the price is so moderate it is an exact model of the more expensive style of Easy Chair. Made up in smart serviceable Tapestries, suitable for any scheme of decoration, and finished off with a fancy cord and gimp to match the covering.

SOLD ON THE MONEY-BACK PRINCIPLE.

Delivered Carriage Paid from our Factories to your door on payment of 3s. 6d only. If not satisfied, the chair may be returned AT OUR EXPENSE and any money paid will be refunded in full. Samples of coverings and full particulars FREE by post if you mention JOHN BULL.

DIMENSIONS: Height from ground. 36 in.; height of back from seat, 26in; extreme width, 31 in.; extreme depth from back to front 29 in.; depth of seat from back to front, 25 in.

H. J. SEARLE & SON Ltd. (Manufacturing Upholsterers), **Old Kent Road, LONDON, S.E.** Telephone 6748 Central.

John Bull's Safety Razor

CLEMAK AUTOMATIC ACTION Safety Razor

CLEMAK RAZOR WITH SEVEN BLADES COMPLETE IN CASE. **5/-**

STANDARD OUTFIT
TRIPLE SILVER-PLATED.
With 12 Blades and Strop, in handsome leather case 10/6

Clemak Booklet Free.

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR A CLEMAK.

CLEMAK BLADES can be stropped, and will last for years.

CLEMAK RAZOR CO., BILLITER ST., LONDON.

When you are in your favourite easy chair

watching the smoke wreaths curl from your Flor de Dindigul Cigar, you cannot help wondering how such an exquisite pleasure was made possible. So many "cheap" cigars repel you, so many high-priced brands fail to please your palate, that the delicacy and sweetness of the

Flor de Dindigul CIGAR

make you regard it in a class quite alone. It's a genuine imported brand—that's one reason for the superiority of the Flor de Dindigul Cigar.

Price 3d. each;
5 for 1/1; in boxes of 25, 5/3; 50 10/3.

Then there is the FLOR DE DINDIGUL EXTRA, which is extra choice (supplied to the House of Lords), 4d. each; 7/6 per box of 25. The FLOR DE DINDIGUL CIGARETTE, made of all-tobacco leaf (without paper), a most delightful smoke: 1d. each; 3/4 per box of 100.

All these can be obtained from any good tobacconist. Or carriage paid to any address in the United Kingdom from the Importers: BEWLAY & Co., Ltd., 49, Strand, London.

Established 129 Years.

CAPS THE LOT—The Flor de Dindigul Cigars.

"VICTIM OF P. & P." calls our attention to an offer of "£500 cash" for a "Geographical Competition," the entrance fee of 2s. 6d. being described as a subscription to *Home Truth*. The address of *Home Truth* is 12, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., where are also the offices of "Palmer and Co.," "Lancaster and Co." and "Stewart and Co.," all of which we have suggested are aliases of the man Douglas. *Verb. sap.*

M. J. B. L. (Radlett) asks whether the People's Accident Legal Aid Society, 199, Fleet Street, E.C.—which offers to provide legal assistance at a cost of 1d. yearly—is a genuine concern. We have no doubt it is like some other legal aid societies, relying for its profit upon obtaining compensation cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act, to which good costs are attached, and, in addition, a percentage of the sum awarded is deducted.

P. L. (Bournville), A. F. (Glasgow), R. H. S. (Southport), and others, send us letters they have received from Messrs. Teague and Hurditch, 165, Mansion House Chambers, agents for the "Shepherd-Teague Co., Incd., Fresno, California," in reference to situations on a fruit ranche out there. As the posts appear to have been offered in such a wholesale manner, our advice is to have nothing to do with them.

VERITAS (Regent's Park) calls our attention to the manner in which the Yankees are invading our shopping thoroughfares, and to the fact that many of our recent "celebrities" all hailed from the other side of the herring pond. What about a poll-tax?

A. H. W. (Brixton) AND OTHERS.—The Budget resolutions of the House of Commons have, by custom, all the force of law, but they must ultimately be confirmed by an Act of Parliament. Should such an Act not be passed, the taxes would be recoverable against the Crown, but this condition of things is not likely to arise in our time.

"TAXI DRIVER" (London) complains that the F. I. A. T. Company at King's Cross have two hundred odd drivers, some getting only three days' work a week, after waiting from three to six hours each morning, and of other matters in connection with this depot No doubt things will wake up when some of the new companies get into working order.

A. P. (Shepherd's Bush) says, knowing we can answer any question, will we tell him why the case against Clifton Robinson was recently thrown out by the grand jury? That is just one of the things we cannot answer. What a pity the poor chap who ran into the British Army did not come before that jury!

W. O. H. (Darlington) AND OTHERS think we were a bit unkind when publishing the "Baby" parson's reply to our recent article, to qualify it with "But—" What we meant was, why, in writing to the young girl, did he sign his letter "Baby"?

"ANOTHER MANCHESTER MUG."—With reference to a par in "Letter Bag" in our last issue, in which F. G. Morton was mentioned as one of various persons who carry on Football Betting at Flushing and forget to pay their debts, we have had a visit for Mr. Morton (an assumed name), who assures us that the charge as it applies to him is quite unfounded. He tells us that, so far as he knows, there is not a single person to whom he owes anything, and that last week he sent out no less than £3,000 in Post Office Orders to winners. He has shown us Post Office Registration receipts in support of this statement. If, therefore, anyone of our readers considers that Mr. Morton owes him anything he had better communicate with us and we will invite explanation from Mr. Morton.

"A JOHN BULL WAITER" (London, W.C.) draws our attention to the International Labour Exchange, 84, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W., which makes the following charges:—Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.; subscription, 4s. 6d. per quarter; commission for posts secured, 25 per cent. to members and 50 per cent. to non-members; advertisements, 2s. 6d. per issue.

G. H. W. (Loughborough Junction) complains of the insufficient mealtimes of tramway workers. They are not allowed to partake of food and drink on the cars, and they have no time at a terminus, scarcely even time to breathe, he says. "The Council," he continues, "take care of our teeth at school, and deny us the right to use them when we have to work for our living."

P. C. (London, S.W.) draws attention to the "white slavery" of the conductors of the London General Omnibus Company. He says they "have to stand sixteen hours a day on a perambulating scrap-heap."

A. E. G. (London, E.) says that the churches and chapels run goose clubs and exact a discount of 10 per cent. in consideration of recommending certain tradesmen, but that the tradesmen do not and cannot give full value. In other words, the ticket of a member of a goose club is only worth 4s. 6d. instead of 5s. We agree that the members ought to be informed of the existence of these discounts. Goose clubs are evidently well named.

W. R. (Peckham) went to Plumstead in answer to an advertisement and "found about three hundred poor devils waiting already who had no more chance of getting the job that I had of becoming Prime Minister." The advertisement certainly ought to have been more definite, but the advertiser evidently meant well, as he gave a personal interview to all this crowd. The incident shows the urgency of getting on with the Government Labour Exchanges.

E. B. (Upper Norwood) says we are quite right to condemn the execution of Ferrer, but "how about the barbarism which has condemned a poor wretched human being to be shut up in an iron cage until he dies?" How, indeed?

"A VICTIM" (Queen's Park, W.) thinks it a scandal that firms should "employ the petticoat brigade" when competent men are walking the streets. We see no earthly reason why men should be preferred to women. In fact, for our part, we prefer women.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.

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DON'T WEAR A TRUSS

The Stuart Plaster-Pad Co., 66-67, Shoe Lane, E.C.

GENTLEMEN, 17/9/09.

In my previous communication of June 18th, I mentioned I should probably acquaint you in respect of the result of your Plaster-Pads. I have now dispensed with No. 3 pad, and consider I am quite justified in asserting that the object is obtained; the rupture has disappeared, and the groin has regained its normal conformation. You have my sanction to give publicity to the foregoing, as I consider your Treatment cannot be too widely circulated, and I hope it may be the means of curing many others.

I am, Gentlemen, yours sincerely,
J. J. Marris

(Hundreds of letters like above.)

STUART'S PLASTER-PADS

are different from the painful truss, and being self-adhesive they hold the rupture in place without straps, buckles or springs—cannot slip, so cannot chafe or press against the pelvic bone. The pads contain a wonderful medicine which is kept constantly in contact, thereby curing the most obstinate cases. Thousands have successfully treated themselves without hindrance from work and in the privacy of the home. Soft as velvet—easy to apply—inexpensive. Write to-day and "Trial Treatment," with interesting book, will be sent free. Address—STUART PLASTER-PAD CO. (Dept. P.), 66-67, Shoe Lane, London, E.C.

FREE TRIAL OF TREATMENT

Oatine

When the skin is irritated after shaving, use OATINE. It instantly relieves tenderness, and soreness of the skin.

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Instead of continually buying Razor Blades

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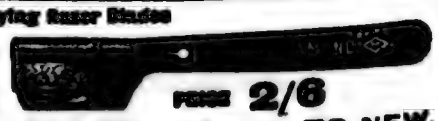

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This dressy "about town" Overcoat is a snug coat.

IN the train, on the 'bus, the warm, windproof material—

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Sterling Value in Made-to-measure Overcoats at Two Guineas.

I fit you perfectly by post, I guarantee that. I go further. To enable you to assure yourself of the smart style and honest worth of this coat, I accept your post-dated Money Order, dated forward ten days. This allows you ample time for critical examination; if the coat is not all you have been led to believe, you simply send it back and stop your order. This is an absolute guarantee of satisfaction. Have a look at the patterns in any case—just drop me a post-card and get them by return.

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T. K.

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You can never permanently alter the colour of your hair by a mere dye. But my liquid will without fail restore colour to Grey Hair—all the rich natural colour of earlier life. Dyes only stain the hair, and are temporary and harmful. Just as well use ink or walnut juice! Prof. PAUL LIND'S Liquid is an absolutely scientific formula, the result of wide experience, chemical knowledge and study. It acts upon the pigmentary glands, causing a true and permanent alteration of the colour. The hair stops falling, the growth is promoted, all dandruff disappears, and the hair becomes soft and glossy. In most cases a full size bottle suffices, therefore my liquid is the Cheapest Hair Restorer in the world. It is also Perfectly Harmless.

Write or Call for Free Bottle.

I want you to test it on your own hair, and I absolutely guarantee success. I will give you a bottle free if you call, or will send a bottle in private wrapper on receipt of three penny stamps to pay postage and packing.

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Now that Xmas is fast approaching we are prepared to grant loans from

£20 to £5,000

at greatly reduced rates on your approved note of hand only, without Security or Sureties. NO FEES OR FINES. Distance no object. Easy repayments. Strictest privacy. Information readily given.
Apply to us before completing elsewhere.

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RACING NOTES

By W. LOTINGA
("Larry Lynx" of THE PEOPLE, *and "Magpie" of* THE GLOBE.)

The Everlasting Roseverna Matter.

There has not been a greater muddle or parody upon what we term racing and betting law than the Roseverna case—and the horses themselves are among the worst in training. It is time there was some unity in opinion and action, as between the Jockey Club authorities, who govern racing, and those supposedly responsible for the control of betting.

Seeing that speculation is the greater part of racing, which without it would absolutely become extinct, I have always contended that the Jockey Club should openly admit its control, for the good of themselves and everybody. They do so obviously by accepting entrance money for stands at Newmarket for the sole and express purpose of betting (which is forbidden, except in the enclosure, into which everybody is therefore driven), and yet they profess not to recognise it.

Prophetic.

There is nothing to ground one's ideas of the future upon, for until the form settles it must clearly be guesswork or a matter of a horse's condition. Kempton's is interesting if none too full sport, and it will be something new for a while to see so much of what is happening, as the runners "go round" two or three times. Solely because we know he is well, are we reasonably entitled to follow WAND in the Uxbridge Handicap, and, on the Liverpool form, PITSEA must about take the Hurdle Handicap. The next day that nice young horse NORMAN THE FIDDLER will be fitter than at Sandown, and, if at all capably ridden, has an obvious chance in the Middlesex Steeplechase. The Staines Handicap might fall to WOLFKING—who is a useful little horse, and nicely treated, seeing that only one animal has under 11st. But the best "tip" that I can give to those qualified to apply for it (as announced on this page), is to get one of Frank Wootton's portraits, executed in colours, in his father's cap and jacket—a real memento of the boy's leadership among jockeys.

Striking Portrait in Colours of

FRANK WOOTTON

(Mounted ready for hanging)

will be sent GRATUITOUSLY to Proprietors of Hotels, Billiard Rooms, or Hairdressers' and Tobacconists' establishments upon receipt of 1d. postage (and promise to hang same) to the Publisher:—

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£100 to £500 at 5, £1,000 to £5,000 at 4½, £10,000 £20,000 to 4 PER CENT. PER ANNUM. Advances two to 20 years. Pay interest only. Distance no object. Large advances preferred. Loans paid off. Ladies, Special. Above securities our study. Large Trust Funds for Investment.

ADVANCES ARRANGED IN ALL PARTS OF THE KINGDOM, ABOVE RATES IN ALL CASES. PROSPECTUS POST FREE. Interview 10 to 4 ('Phone 4,980 Wall), or write. All letters answered.

FAWCETT & CO., 129, CHEAPSIDE, CITY LONDON (Private).

FREE TO THE RUPTURED.

A Well Known Authority Sends a Sample of a Famous Method Free to All.

We will send free to anyone who is ruptured, or knows of any person ruptured, a free trial of our famous home cure. It is a marvellous method, curing cases that defied hospitals, doctors, trusses, electricity and all else. Merely send your name and address, and the free trial will be sent without any cost to you whatever.

MR. R. Wharton, 52, Domestic Street, Holbeck, Leeds, was ruptured seven years, tried all kinds of trusses, partly made up his mind to undergo the danger of an operation, when, by the greatest of good luck, he tried the Rice method. He is cured, *and has worn no truss for over six years.*

R. WHARTON.

Mr. Wharton says:—"I tried the Rice method, and it cured me. I had been ruptured seven years and tried all kinds of trusses with no benefit. I am doing all I can to persuade every ruptured person to try this method, which I think is worth its weight in gold."

Every ruptured person ought to send at once and make a trial of this method. It has cured thousands of people without pain, danger, operation, or an hour's loss of time. Begin now, and in a short time you will forget you have been ruptured. Do not fail to send in this Coupon to-day.

COUPON (B 1101).

Cut out and post to WM. S. RICE, LTD., 8 & 9, STONECUTTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Time Ruptured?.....*Age?* .....
Right, left, or both sides, or navel?.....
Name .....
Address .....
.....

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The Renowned Football and Turf Accountant.
FLUSHING, HOLLAND.
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William Fergusson, "Stump Cross" A.F.C., Halifax, was one of the recipients of Harry Appleton's £5 Notes for correctly forecasting Winners on the Free Coupons. Kindly note that Harry Appleton has always paid all clients' winnings in full without exception.

Clients will receive my book entitled, **"Football and How to Play It."** Write for Terms—Postcards 1d. Letters 2½d.
Turf Accounts Opened with responsible persons.
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with Return of Purchase Money.

For Particulars write

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Assets Exceed £10,000,000. JAMES H. SCOTT, General Manager and Secretary.

DO YOU WANT MONEY
on Note of Hand alone from £10 to £1,000?
IF YOU DO,
and you are a genuine borrower and honourably intend to repay, apply to—
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in order to eat enough.

What you eat—how much you eat—or even how much you digest—is not the whole question.

By stimulating your appetite and aiding your digestion you may be only overloading your system with waste products.

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Deposits of £10 and upwards received as under:—
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Special terms for longer periods. Interest paid quarterly.

Owing to the nature of our Investments, we are able to pay rates of interest on deposits that will compare favourably with dividends paid on almost any class of stock or share-holding insuring the safety of capital. We have been established for 40 years, and our position in the banking world to-day testifies to the success of our business methods, and to the satisfaction of our customers. Write or call for prospectus.

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£100 and upwards to £10,000 lent upon NOTE OF HAND alone with or without security, repayable by monthly or quarterly instalments

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PROVIDES
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HAPGOODS is a Market for High-Grade Ability. Men who come to us with Special Knowledge which fits them to occupy High-Grade Positions will always find our Organisation a source of desirable opportunities. We have hundreds of positions open for really High-Grade Men who are capable of justifying our recommendations for Responsible Positions carrying salaries ranging from £120 to £1,000 a year. If you are such a man—write us to-day.

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Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week ONE HUNDRED of such numbers will be drawn and published on this page. These 100 numbers will be announced in four weeks' time.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date bearing* any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify *the date* and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for the issues of January 11th, 1908, August 28th, September 25th, October 16th and 23rd:—

WILLIAM JOYCE, 59, George Street, Lozells, Birmingham. (No. 65,689.—January 11th, 1908.)

F. W. BODDINGTON, 6, Aldene Street, Uxbridge Road, W. (No. 69,911.—August 28th.)

DAVID MACNICOL, 16, Howat Street, Govan. (No. 256,114.—September 25th.)

C. B. GILES, 24, The Pavement, Clapham Common, S.W. (No. 236,709.—October 16th.)

Mrs. R. KEDDIE, 13, Gibson Terrace, Edinburgh. (No. 9,628.—October 16th, 1909.)

W. R. BRUCE, 75, Benthal Road, Stoke Newington, N. (No. 206,681.—October 23rd.)

H. O. PERT, Tonelwyd Villa, Treherbert, Glam. (No. 76,510.—October 23rd.)

Mrs. L. M. MEIER, 7, Station Road, Redhill. (No. 215,682.—October 23rd.)

F. C. FROST, 15, Argyle Road, West Hendon. (No. 53,082.—October 23rd.)

P. CHIPPING, 246, Shobnall Street, Burton-on-Trent. (No. 62,227.—October 23rd.)

C. J. C. EVANS, 43, Claremont Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham. (No. 136,558.—October 23rd.)

STANLEY COOPER, 16, Denmark Road, Reading. (No. 9,427.—October 23rd.)

J. THOMAS, 11, Windsor Place, Merthyr Vale, Glam. (No. 12,254.—October 23rd.)

F. LESLIE CASTON, 18, Hartington Road, Brighton. (No. 49,591.—October 23rd.

H. PUFFETT, 4, Osborn Terrace, Gateshead-on-Tyne. (No. 167,127.—October 23rd.)

EDWARD ROWE, 19, St. Ann's Street, Chepstow, Mon. (No. 168,624.—October 23rd.)

DENIS WARREN, 42, Brunswick Street, Blackfriars, S.E. (No. 183,787.—October 23rd.)

J. HARVIE, 11, Clifton Street, Alderley Edge, near Manchester. (No. 46,126.—October 23rd.)

The following are the 100 numbers for our issue of November 6th:—

903	89486	156554	194041	234551
9142	93176	159004	194537	235566
9153	95319	159996	196068	237622
10868	95371	160492	205276	242266
15651	97369	160962	205296	245261
17758	100946	161484	206721	260915
18757	101609	162507	212751	266650
27757	107804	164227	213729	266657
30762	111042	165020	214216	270726
32796	119666	165362	214712	272220
33469	122529	169170	216466	274229
45743	124271	171464	216962	325161
52726	124669	172223	218031	327162
64227	126219	172332	218117	336210
66162	127221	173264	218527	344765
66254	128074	173780	224226	352450
74004	128966	174276	224466	356062
76294	144712	174846	224740	359195
90162	150622	185126	226267	370622
96015	151520	186545	231119	373213

THE 100 NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JANUARY 7th, 1910, PUBLISHED JANUARY 4th.

IDENTICAL NUMBERS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, REGISTERED.

LARGEST SALE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD OF THE ONLY REMEDY WHICH STOPS the HAIR FALLING RESTORES the NATURAL COLOUR!

MAKES THE HAIR ROOTS GROW

THAT IS CAPSULOIDS

THERE IS A SIMPLE SCIENTIFIC REASON. READ IT.

Hair Troubles are caused by harmful germs which settle in the HAIR ROOTS WHERE ALL GROWTH TAKES PLACE. These germs multiply and use up the nourishment brought to the roots by the blood. The roots loosen, become dull and grey, and soften, and the hair soon falls out. After the hair falls out the germs still multiply and feed until the root is quite destroyed, and if you delay until the root is dead nothing can be done. Capsuloids supply the Oxygen, killing the germs, so that the roots can be nourished and brought into a state of healthy activity; the colour is restored, and the hair roots grow vigorously, producing long, thick, luxuriant hair. NOTHING ELSE WILL DO IT. Rubbing the scalp is useless, because it only drags out loose hairs, roots and all, and this picture of a growing hair will show you how impossible it would be to rub any preparation through the skin away down to the growing cells in the hair roots, where all growth takes place and where the harmful germs are doing their damage. Those germs can be reached and killed only through the blood, and CAPSULOIDS is the only remedy that will do this, and is the only remedy which will make hair roots grow.

A Singer's Testimony after Three Years.

May I add a further testimony to that which I gave you three years ago to express my sincere appreciation of the benefits of Capsuloids to the hair. Several attacks of Influenza at various times have caused my hair to fall out very much and become dull. This has been the case more than once since I first wrote you, and invariably a course of Capsuloids has arrested the falling out and caused new hair to grow.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a photo, from which you will see how thick my hair is. If you care to make use of this letter pray do so.—Faithfully yours

(Madame) B MILNER.

Mrs. Weber writes: "Your arguments seemed so reasonable."

9, Liston Road, Clapham.

DEAR SIRS,—Early in 1908, my hair began to fall out and gave me much trouble. Various outward applications which I used did no good. I had often read your advertisements and your arguments seemed so reasonable that I decided to give Capsuloids a trial. Soon the falling out entirely ceased, the hair grew both longer and thicker, and it now measures 45 inches in length. I have had no further trouble with it since.

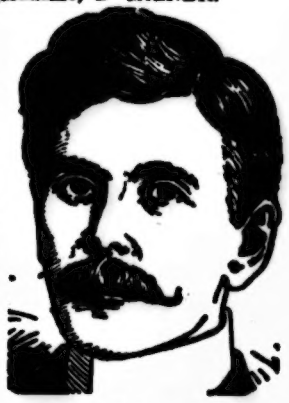
Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) A. WEBER.

Usual Results from Rubbing On Lotions.

267, High Street, Chatham, Kent.

DEAR SIR,—I have very great pleasure in informing you that I have derived remarkable benefit by taking Capsuloids. About three years ago, my hair began to fall out. I tried various outward applications, but none had any effect. Six months ago I came across your advertisement, so as a last resource I thought I would give Capsuloids a trial, and I am thankful to say that all the bald spots have disappeared, and my hair is quite strong again.—Yours truly, T. MAUGHAM.



7, Great Bedford Street, Bath.

27/10/'04.

DEAR SIR,—I have now taken your valuable remedy termed "Capsuloids" for some time, and I have great pleasure in telling you what a wonderful restorative they have proved, with respect to my hair, which came out terribly until I began to use Capsuloids, so much so that I was afraid of getting bald. My hair has now ceased to come out, and is thick and soft, and in good condition generally.—I am, dear sir, yours most gratefully,

(Rev.) J. N. H. L[illegible]

Avoid so-called Hæmoglobin-Capsules for the Hair. They are not like Capsuloids, and are not only worthless but generally harmful.

From all Chemists, or direct, price 2s. 3d. Order 3 Boxes direct, enclosing coupon, and receive sample; larger sample with 6. Send for Hair Booklet. Come and have your hair examined free between 10—12 and 3—5

CAPSULOIDS (1909) LTD., 47, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

COUPON. J. B., 4 12 '09.

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All the torture of Indigestion, the Acidity and Heartburn, with teeth on edge, the Burning Spot behind the left shoulder blade, with pains shooting through towards the heart, the heart palpitation, with cold hands and feet, and general weakness, the faintness and pressure and discomfort, the rumbling and often excruciating bowel pain, are all due to your failure to digest your food, and three-quarters of it is due to failure to digest starchy foods like Bread, Potatoes, Bananas, etc., but you like to eat those and you need them, and if you could digest them you would have none of this pain, discomfort, and misery, and you would have all the nourishment which comes from such food when well digested. MOTHER'S ADVICE perfectly digests all starchy and other food.

You have SKIN LIKE VELVET when you take MOTHER'S ADVICE. From all Chemists and Stores, price 1/1½ and 2/9, or direct from

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